

Greyhound Breeding, Race Injury and Retirement

Quarterly Report (Q4)

April 2023-June 2023



**QUEENSLAND RACING
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Engagement | Education | Enforcement

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1. Overview

This is a report for the quarterly period from April to June 2023 (Q4). 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 April to June 2023

During the period April to June 2023, there were 288 live greyhound pups born (whelped) (Table 1) and 371 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 April to June 2023.

Month	Greyhounds whelped
April 2023	63
May 2023	111
June 2023	54
Q4 Total	228

Table 2. Greyhounds named during the period April to June 2023

Month	Greyhounds named
April 2023	65
May 2023	138
June 2023	168
Q4 Total	371

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 April to June 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 April to June 2023, there were 169 greyhound race meetings held at Queensland venues. At these race meetings, 2,466 unique greyhounds started.

Table 3. Total greyhound racing injuries and severity at Queensland race meetings from April to June 2023. Number of starters =14,761.

Injury category	Incapacitation period (stand down)	Number of Incidents	Incidents per 1000 Starts
Category AG	Nil	14	0.95
Category BG	3 to 10 days	353	23.91
Category CG	14 to 21 days	46	3.12
Category DG	28 to 59 days	5	0.34
Category DF	60+ days	36	2.44
Category EF	Deceased or Euthanised	3	0.20
Total A-E		457	30.96
Total F (Serious)		39	2.64
Total G (Non-serious)		418	28.32

4.1. Reported greyhound racing-related deaths from April to June 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 April to June 2023. Injuries are as described in the on-track veterinarians' and/or stewards' reports².

Injury	Count
Right foreleg fracture (radius/ulna)	1
Right foreleg fracture (humerus)	1
Sudden deaths (cardiac)	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 April to June 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	4616	135	29.25	1	0.22
Bundaberg	Grass	972	62	63.79	0	0.00
Capalaba	Grass	1766	59	33.41	0	0.00
Ipswich	Sand	4216	141	33.44	2	0.47
Rockhampton	Sand	1211	29	23.95	0	0.00
Townsville	Sand	1980	31	15.66	0	0.00
Totals		14,761	457	30.96	3	0.20

6. Greyhounds reported as retired, deceased, or euthanised during April to June 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 April to June 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 10 July 2023.

Category	April	May	June	Total
Deceased accidental causes	1	3	4	8
Deceased due to injury	0	0	0	0
Deceased illness or age	1	4	1	6
Deceased natural causes	2	2	0	4
Euthanised/deceased at track due to injury	1	1	1	3
Euthanised due to illness or age	8	2	6	16
Euthanised due to injury	16	10	9	35
Euthanised due to not suitable for racing	0	0	0	0
Euthanised due to not suitable for rehoming	12	21	8	41
Euthanised by GAP - health and/or behavioural issues*	0	6	2	8
Total deceased or euthanised	41	49	31	121

*From July 2023, the GAP changed its position to euthanise on prey drive. A new behaviour management specialist has entered the program and contemporised the behaviour management program to prevent the need to euthanise for behavioural reasons.

Table 7. Greyhound retirement notifications from April to June 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 10 July 2023.

Category	April	May	June	Total
Retired for breeding	2	0	22	24
Retired to owner	12	37	16	65
Retired to trainer	1	5	1	7
Retired as a pet to a 3 rd party	18	17	16	51
Retired to GAP	34	30	40	104
Retired to other adoption programs	12	18	16	46
Surrendered to other agency	11	13	10	34
Exported	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total retired	90	120	121	331

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.