



# Greyhound Breeding, Race Injury and Retirement

Quarterly Report Q1 2023-24



QUEENSLAND RACING  
INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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## 1. Overview

This is a report for the quarterly period from July to September 2023 (Q1). 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 July to September 2023

During the period July to September 2023, there were 212 live greyhound pups born (whelped) (Table 1). This figure is 1 pup less than the same quarter last year, where 213 pups were whelped between July 2022 and September 2022.

**Table 1.** Greyhound pups born (whelped) during the period July to September 2023.

Month	Greyhounds whelped
July 2023	66
August 2023	54
September 2023	92
<b>Q1 Total</b>	<b>212</b>

374 greyhounds were named between July and September 2023 (Table 2) in Queensland, compared to 328 greyhounds named in the same quarter last year. Note: Greyhounds are generally named for racing at between 12 and 18 months of age, creating a delay between whelping and naming.

**Table 2.** Greyhounds named during the period July to September 2023

Month	Greyhounds named
July 2023	108
August 2023	130
September 2023	136
<b>Q1 Total</b>	<b>374</b>

## 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 July to September 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 July to September 2023, there were 173 greyhound race meetings held at Queensland venues. At these race meetings, 2,490 unique greyhounds started.

**Table 3.** Total greyhound racing injuries and severity at Queensland race meetings from Q1 July to September 2023. Number of starters =14,910.

Injury category	Incapacitation period (stand down)	Number of Incidents	Incidents per 1000 Starts
Category AG	Nil	17	1.14
Category BG	3 to 10 days	396	26.56
Category CG	14 to 21 days	65	4.36
Category DG	28 to 59 days	2	0.13
Category DF	60+ days	45	3.02
Category EF	Deceased or Euthanised	4	0.27
<b>Total A-E</b>		<b>529</b>	<b>35.48</b>
<b>Total F (Serious)</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>3.40</b>
<b>Total G (Non-serious)</b>		<b>478</b>	<b>32.06</b>

#### 4.1. Reported greyhound racing-related deaths from July to September 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 sought<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 4.** Greyhounds euthanised or deceased at Queensland race meetings from July to September 2023. Injuries are as described in the on-track veterinarians' and/or stewards' reports<sup>2</sup>.

Injury	Count
Left foreleg fracture (radius/ulna)	1
Left foreleg fracture (wrist)	1
Right foreleg fracture (radius/ulna)	1
Sudden death (cardiac)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

#### 5. Reported injuries by racetrack

**Table 5.** Number of greyhound race starters and all injuries at Queensland race meetings from July to September 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	4446	172	38.69	0	0.00

<sup>1</sup> These are captured through deceased/retirement reporting.

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

Bundaberg	Grass	834	68	81.53	3	3.60
Capalaba	Grass	1715	47	27.41	0	0.00
Ipswich	Sand	4720	169	35.81	1	0.21
Rockhampton	Sand	1075	32	29.77	0	0.00
Townsville	Sand	2120	41	19.34	0	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>14910</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>35.48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.27</b>

## 6. Greyhounds reported as retired, deceased, or euthanised during July to September 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 July to September 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 14 November 2023.

Category	July	August	September	Total
Deceased accidental causes	5	6	2	13
Deceased due to injury	0	1	0	1
Deceased illness or age	5	0	2	7
Deceased natural causes	3	0	1	4
Euthanised/deceased at track due to injury	0	1	3	4
Euthanised due to illness or age	7	12	6	25
Euthanised due to injury	7	9	7	23
Euthanised due to not suitable for racing	0	0	0	0
Euthanised due to not suitable for rehoming	15	9	12	36
Euthanised by GAP - health issues*	2	1	0	3
<b>Total deceased or euthanised</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>116</b>

\*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 July to September 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, or by the Greyhound Adoption Program on intake. Reports were sourced from OzChase on 2 February 2024.

Category	July	August	September	Total
Retired for breeding	2	0	5	7
Retired to owner	11	17	35	63
Retired to trainer	0	4	2	6

Retired as a pet to a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party	16	16	15	47
Retired to GAP	57	55	38	150
Retired to other adoption programs	14	7	2	23
Surrendered to other agency	13	23	8	44
Exported	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total retired</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>340</b>

### 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](http://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](mailto:communication@qric.qld.gov.au).