



Greyhound Breeding, Race Injury and Retirement

Quarterly Report Q2 2023-24



QUEENSLAND RACING
INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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1. Overview

This is a report for the quarterly period from October to December 2023 (Q2 2023-2024). 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 October to December 2023

During the Q2 2023-2024 period there were 309 live greyhound pups born (whelped) compared to 212 in Q1 (Table 1). This represents a total of 521 live greyhound pups whelped this financial year, which is 74 pups more than the same period in 2022 (447 live pups born between July and December 2022).

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

Month	Greyhounds whelped
July 2023	66
August 2023	54
September 2023	92
Q1 Total	212
October 2023	174
November 2023	73
December 2023	62
Q2 Total	309
YTD Total	521

During the Q2 2023-2024 period there were 274 greyhounds named (Table 2) in Queensland, a decrease of almost 46% from the previous quarter where 374 greyhounds were named. When comparing the total for the Q1 and Q2 period however, this is slightly less than the number of dogs named in that same period last year, where 652 greyhounds were named between July and December 2022.

Table 2. Greyhounds named during the period July to December 2023. Note: Greyhounds are generally named for racing at between 12 and 18 months of age, creating a delay between whelping and naming.

Month	Greyhounds named
July 2023	108
August 2023	130
September 2023	136
Q1 Total	374
October 2023	91
November 2023	90
December 2023	93
Q2 Total	274
YTD Total	648

3. Injury Categories (*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 for Q2 2023-2024

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 October to December 2023, there were 172 greyhound race meetings held at Queensland venues. At these race meetings, 2,494 unique greyhounds started.

Table 3. Total greyhound racing injuries and severity at Queensland race meetings for Q2 2023-2024 (October to December 2023). Number of starters =14,868.

The subsequent incidents per 1000 starters in Q2 2023-2024 (table 3 below) was 29.45 which is less than the rate for the same quarter last year, where 31.9 incidents/1000 starters was recorded. This reduction in injury rates is a positive indicator of work being done by Racing Queensland and the Commission to reduce injuries in Queensland.

Injury category	Incapacitation period (stand down)	Number of Incidents	Incidents per 1000 Starts
Category AG	Nil	35	2.35
Category BG	3 to 10 days	286	19.24
Category CG	14 to 21 days	78	5.25
Category DG	28 to 59 days	39	2.62
Category DF	60+ days	54	3.63
Category EF	Deceased or Euthanised	2	0.13
Total A-E		494	33.23
Total F (Serious)		56	3.76
Total G (Non-serious)		438	29.45

4.1. Reported greyhound racing-related deaths for Q2 2023-2024

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 for Q2 2023-2024 (October to December 2023). Injuries are as described in the on-track veterinarians' and/or stewards' reports².

This quarter two fatalities were recorded which is significantly less than previous quarters generally. The Commission continues to evaluate and report on injury risk factors and provide emergency care training for our on-track vets to eliminate avoidable fatalities and increase the long-term recovery of injured dogs.

Injury	Count
Left foreleg fracture (radius/ulna)	1
Sudden death (cardiac)	1
Total	2

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 race track

Part of the work undertaken by the Commission includes monitoring injuries by track. In this quarter, there was a concerning increase in injuries on the Bundaberg track. The spike was obvious in real time and racing on the newly renovated grass track was ceased until the surface could be considered suitable again.

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

Venue	Surface	Starters	Total number of injury incidents	Total injury incidents per 1000 starters	Total deceased or euthanised on track	Deceased or euthanised on track per 1000 starters
Albion Park	Sand	4400	135	30.68	0	0.00
Bundaberg	Grass	358	32	89.39	0	0.00
Capalaba	Grass	1933	67	34.66	0	0.00
Ipswich	Sand	4538	156	34.38	1	0.22
Rockhampton	Sand	1402	61	43.51	1	0.71
Townsville	Sand	2237	43	19.22	0	0.00
Totals		14868	494	33.23	2	0.13

6. Greyhounds reported as retired, deceased, or euthanised during for Q2 2023-224

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.

Table 6. Greyhound mortality notifications for Q2 2023-224, 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 8 January 2024.

Category	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	Total
Deceased accidental causes	4	6	4	14
Deceased due to injury	1	1	1	3
Deceased illness or age	5	3	5	13
Deceased natural causes	0	0	0	0
Euthanised/deceased at track due to injury	1	1	0	2
Euthanised due to illness or age	10	8	5	23
Euthanised due to injury	14	14	15	43
Euthanised due to not suitable for racing	0	0	0	0
Euthanised due to not suitable for rehoming	19	17	7	43
Euthanised by GAP - health issues*	1	0	0	1
Total deceased or euthanised	55	50	37	142

*From July 2023, the GAP ceased euthanising for behavioural issues such as excessive prey drive.

In this quarter there was a larger number of greyhounds euthanised due to not suitable for rehoming compared to the same number in Q2 2022-2023. This is disappointing and the Commission will increase engagement with vet clinics and industry participants to offer support for behaviourally challenged dogs via surrender to GAP.

On a positive note, GAP operational improvements have seen a significant increase in the number of dogs the program were able to rehome (179). This is a record number for any quarter since GAP has been in operation. Dogs retired to owners was also significantly higher than the same quarter last year which is pleasing as it demonstrates a lifelong commitment our owners are making toward their racing dogs.

Table 7. Greyhound retirement notifications for Q2 2023-224, 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 1 February 2024.

Category	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	Total
Retired for breeding	1	3	3	7
Retired to owner ³	42	50	34	126
Retired to trainer ⁴	6	4	9	19
Retired as a pet to a 3 rd party	29	13	9	51
Retired to GAP	72	45	63	180
Retired to other adoption programs	11	6	4	21
Surrendered to other agency	1	10	6	17
Exported*	1	0	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0
Total retired	163	131	128	422

*Greyhounds Australasia issued passport to export following QRIC due diligence and scrutiny of applicant.

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.

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, desexed, 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, 4} Greyhounds retired to owner or trainer have increased due to uptake of the Racing Qld Greyhound Retirement Readiness Scheme which requires greyhounds to be retired for reimbursement of desexing, dental and vaccination costs. Individual greyhounds retired to owner/trainer may then be retired to a 3rd party or adoption agency.