



# Greyhound Retirement and End of Life Report

1 April – 30 June 2020



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# GREYHOUND RETIREMENT AND END OF LIFE REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2020

## Foreword

Each quarter the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the Commission) publishes a report providing data in relation to retirements, euthanasia and deaths of greyhounds registered with the Commission in NSW. The publication of this data is designed to provide transparent, accurate and timely reporting of these events.

This report contains data relating to the fourth quarter of 2019/20, being the period 1 April to 30 June 2020. As this is only the fourth edition of this report trend line analysis is limited.

The Commission will continue to evolve the structure and content of the report to enhance its utility.

## Data Sources

The statistics contained in this report for greyhound retirements and deaths relate to notifications received by the Commission from registered participants in the relevant reporting period, in accordance with relevant Commission policies, including the Commission's Rehoming Policy.

Statistics relating to euthanasia that occurs at racetracks are based on data recorded by the Commission's On-Track Veterinarians. All other euthanasia statistics relate to notifications received from participants, including where applicable, certifications from the veterinarian who performed the euthanasia.

### Retirements reported during the quarter

Retired greyhounds who no longer race, usually become pets either in or outside the industry or are retained in the greyhound racing industry for breeding. The Commission was notified of 312 greyhound retirements that occurred between 1 April – 30 June 2020 (see Table 1).

Of the notifications received, 91 greyhounds (or 29.1% of the total) were retained by their registered owner or trainer as a pet and these dogs remain registered with the Commission. A further 62 (19.9%) retired greyhounds were notified as being rehomed privately, by their owner or trainer, to someone outside the greyhound racing industry.

The remaining 159 greyhounds (51%) were notified to the Commission as being rehomed to pet rescue or rehoming organisations. The largest single greyhound rehoming program in NSW is the Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program managed by GRNSW, and during this quarter the Commission was notified of 49 (15.7%) retirements to GAP. A further 110 greyhounds (35.3%) were accepted for adoption by other animal rescue and adoption agencies.

There were no greyhounds retired for export during this quarter.

**Table 1: Greyhound retirements reported to the Commission 1 April – 30 June 2020**

Destination	Number	%
Retained by owner or trainer	91	29.1%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer <sup>1</sup>	62	19.9%
Accepted by Greyhounds As Pets (GAP)	49	15.7%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency <sup>2</sup>	110	35.3%
Retired for export	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rehomed to a member of the public as a pet.

<sup>2</sup> Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency including pet rescue organisations, RSPCA, AWL or council animal care facilities.

### Euthanasia reported during the quarter

On 1 December 2019 the Commission updated its Rehoming Policy<sup>3</sup> to require greyhounds, that could previously be euthanased following certification by a veterinarian as being behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming, to be subject to rehoming requirements.

The Commission expects that greyhounds with behavioural problems undergo a behavioural assessment via GAP or other suitable canine behavioural expert and attempts are made to rehabilitate and re-home these greyhounds. At least two attempts must be made to re-home any greyhound retiring from the industry before euthanasia can be considered.

This quarter six greyhounds were reported as having been euthanased due to a veterinarian certifying that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for re-homing. In every case where a behavioural euthanasia is reported to the Commission, enquiries are conducted to determine if a breach of the Rehoming Policy has occurred. The Commission will continue to report these cases as behavioural euthanasia, even though, under the new Rehoming Policy, euthanasia solely on behavioural grounds is not allowed.

A total of 108 greyhounds were reported as euthanased between 1 April – 30 June 2020. Eighty-Seven (80.6% of the total) were performed by private veterinarians for medical reasons such as injury or illness. There were no reported cases of emergency euthanasia by a person other than a veterinarian. The injuries most commonly reported by veterinarians as resulting in medical euthanasia were severe bone fractures.

Ten greyhounds were euthanised by Commission veterinarians due to a catastrophic injury that occurred as a result of racing with 1 greyhound also reported as euthanased following an unofficial trial.

A further 6 were reported as euthanised on behavioural grounds and 4 after rehoming attempts failed.

**Table 2: Greyhound euthanasia reported to the Commission 1 April – 30 June 2020**

Cause	Number	%
Medical euthanasia (not at racetrack) due to injury, illness, or an emergency <sup>4</sup>	87	80.6%
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming <sup>5</sup>	6	5.5%
Euthanasia at racetrack due to injury	11	10.2%
Euthanasia after rehoming attempts failed	4	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	

<sup>3</sup> The Rehoming Policy can be found at <https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/integrity/rulesandpolicies/re-homing-policy>.

<sup>4</sup> 'Emergency' refers to euthanasia performed by a non-veterinarian in the case of an emergency. The circumstances surrounding any emergency euthanasia are examined by the Commission to ensure they were in accordance with the Commission's policies and the *Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act 1979*.

<sup>5</sup> From 1 December 2019 any greyhound that has not otherwise been rehomed privately must be subject to multiple attempts to rehome the greyhound.

### Deaths reported during the quarter<sup>6</sup>

A total of 42 greyhound deaths were reported between 1 April – 30 June 2020 of which 18 (42.9% of the total) were from natural or unknown causes, 16 (38.1%) due to illness and old age and 8 (19%) due to accidental causes. No sudden deaths at the racetracks occurred.

**Table 3: Greyhound deaths reported to the Commission 1 April – 30 June 2020**

Cause	Number	%
Deceased due to accidental causes <sup>7</sup>	8	19%
Deceased due to illness and old age <sup>8</sup>	16	38.1%
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	18	42.9%
Sudden death at track	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	

<sup>6</sup> The data in this section is categorised based on the information provided to the Commission by participants.

<sup>7</sup> Examples of accidental causes include paddock injuries, snake bites and fights.

<sup>8</sup> Common illnesses associated with greyhounds include stomach torsions, twisted bowels and cardiac failure due to old age.

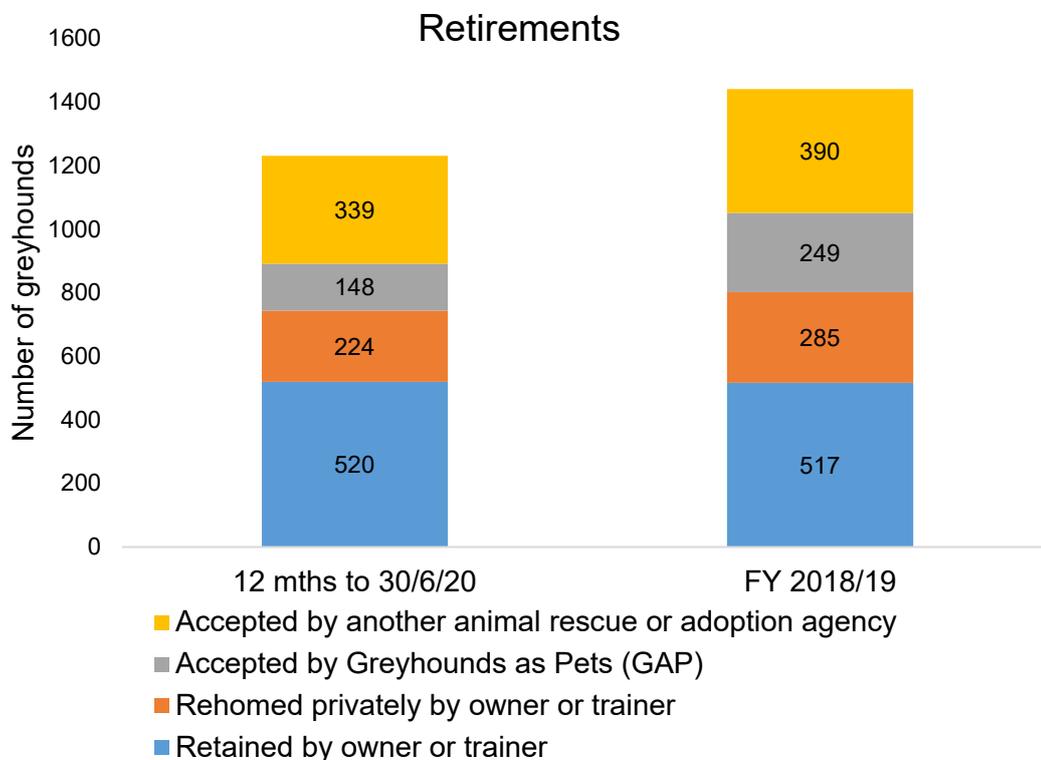
### Trend line analysis

#### Preamble

As this is only the fourth edition of this particular report, trend line analysis is limited to comparing the current year statistics with the prior year (being 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019).

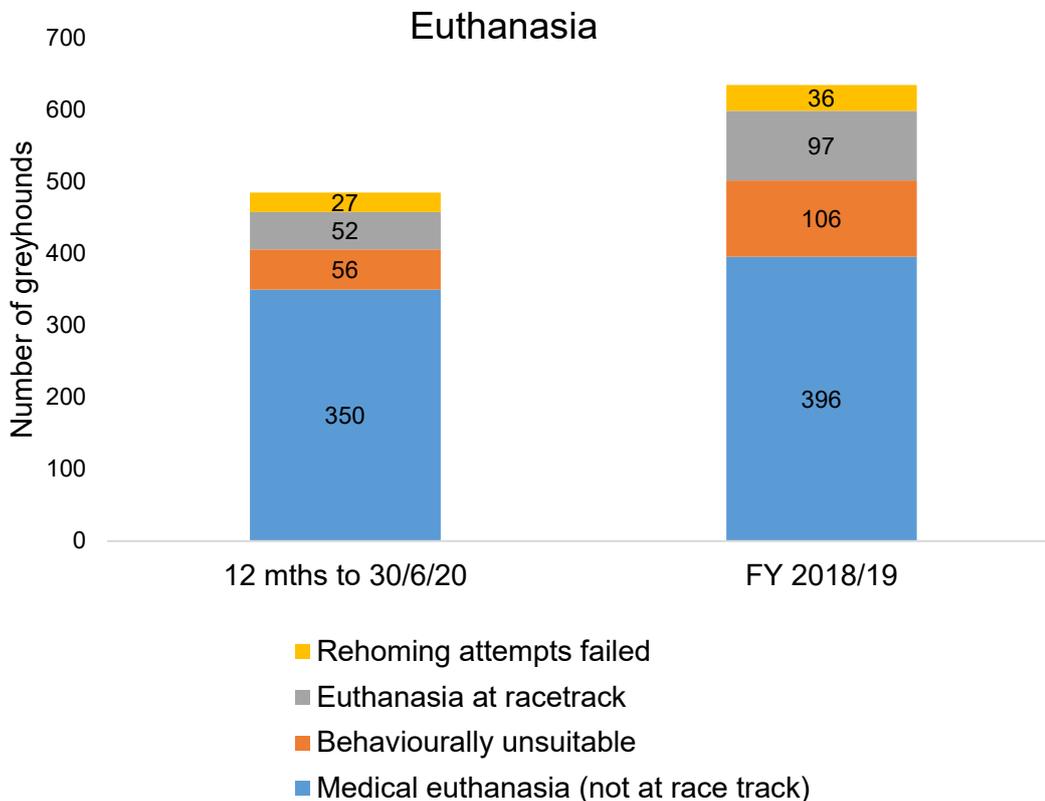
**Graph 1. Greyhound Retirement Trends**

Destination	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	12 mths to 30/06/20	%	FY 2018/19	%
Retained by owner or trainer	178	122	129	91	520	42.2%	517	35.9%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer	63	56	43	62	224	18.2%	285	19.8%
Accepted by Greyhounds as Pets (GAP)	30	18	51	49	148	12%	249	17.3%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency	77	76	76	110	339	27.5%	390	27.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1231</b>		<b>1441</b>	<b>↓ 14.6%</b>



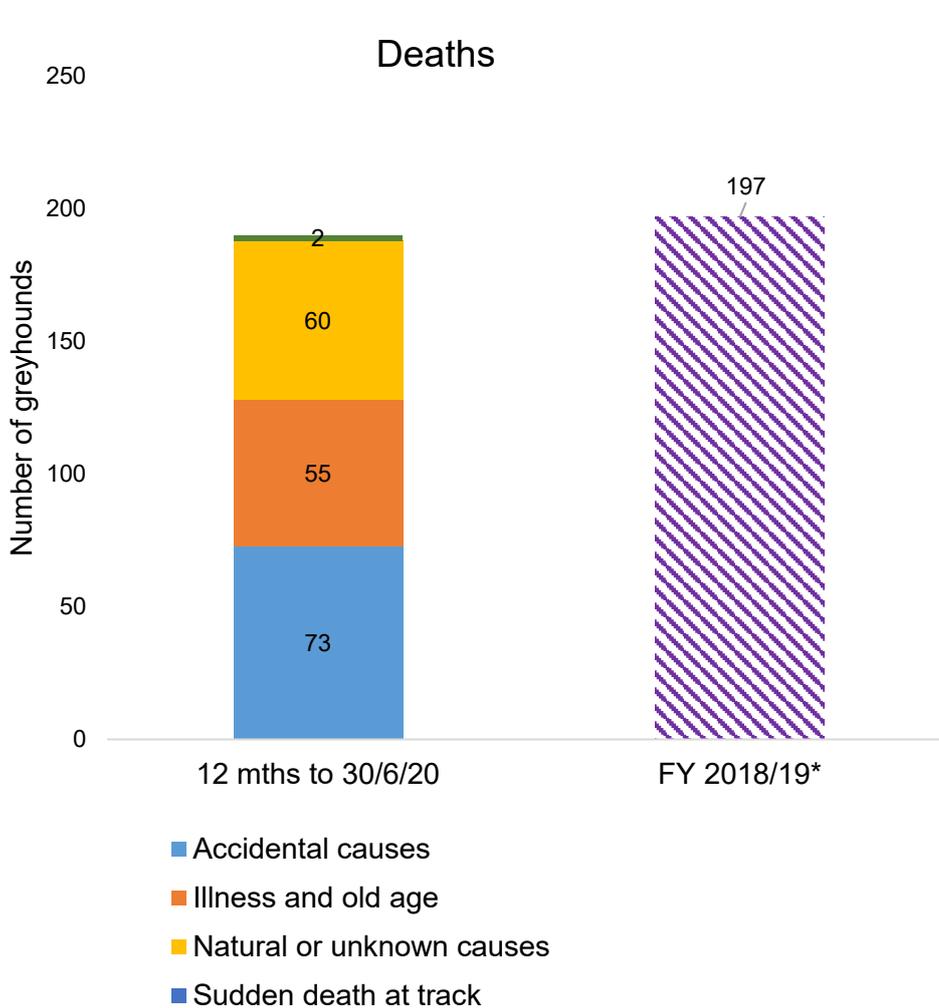
**Graph 2. Greyhound Euthanasia Trends**

Cause	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	12 mths to 30/06/20	%	FY 2018/19	%
Medical euthanasia (not at race track)	90	101	72	87	350	72.2%	396	62.4%
Euthanasia at racetrack	10	16	15	11	52	10.7%	97	15.3%
Behaviourally unsuitable	20	28	2	6	56	11.5%	106	16.6%
Rehoming attempts failed	11	5	7	4	27	5.6%	36	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>485</b>		<b>635</b>	<b>↓ 23.6%</b>



**Graph 3. Greyhound Death Trends**

Cause	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	12 mths to 30/06/2020	FY 2018/19*
Accidental causes	9	24	32	8	73	
Illness and old age	11	14	14	16	55	
Natural or unknown causes	14	9	19	18	60	
Sudden death at track	2	0	0	0	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>197</b>



\* Full year 2018/19 categorisation of data by type is unavailable