

Greyhound life cycle report



1 July – 30 September 2023

The Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission publishes a quarterly report of the status of the registered greyhound population and life cycle events such as breeding, naming, retirement, euthanasia and death for greyhounds registered with the Commission.

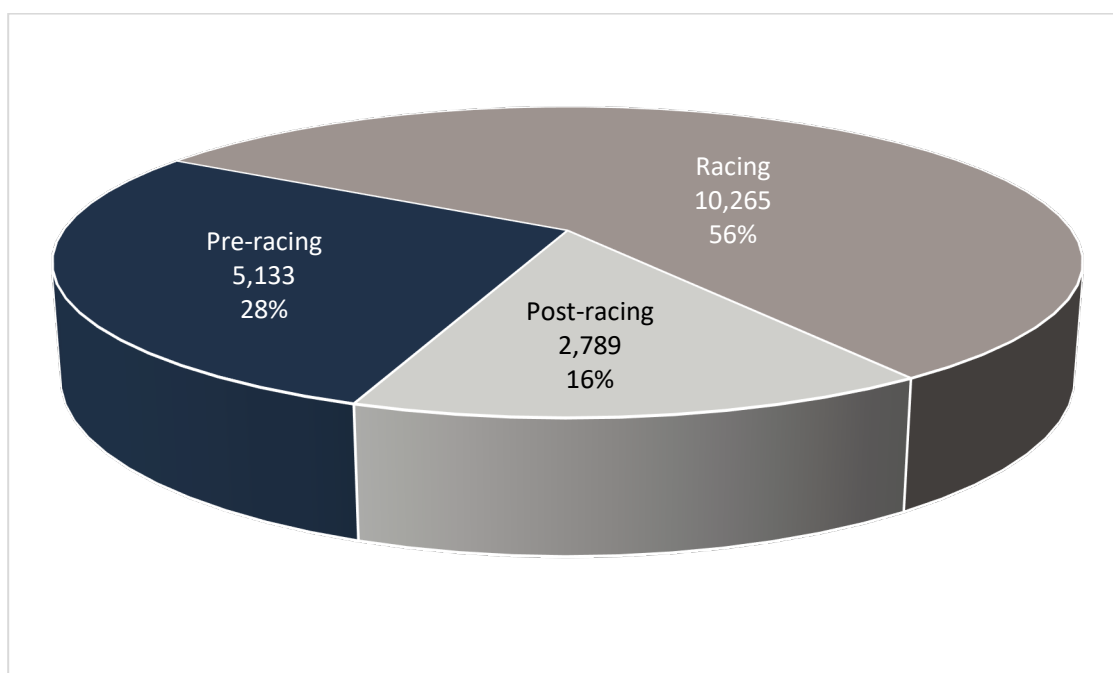
Participants are required to notify the Commission within 14 days from the date of servicing, whelping and retirement, and within two days from the date of euthanasia or death of a greyhound.

Note that quarterly figures may vary with future reports due to late submissions of notifications. However, values for previous financial years have been reconciled with annual reports for consistency.

Greyhound numbers and status

As at 30 September 2023, the estimated industry greyhound population stood at 18,187, with 56% registered for racing (Figure 1). This figure reflects a reduction of 113 from the previous quarter, attributable to the Commission's diligent efforts to trace the status and whereabouts of every greyhound on the Greyhound Register. The decrease largely consists of greyhounds that were retired prior to the 2022/23 year and subsequently rehomed outside the industry.

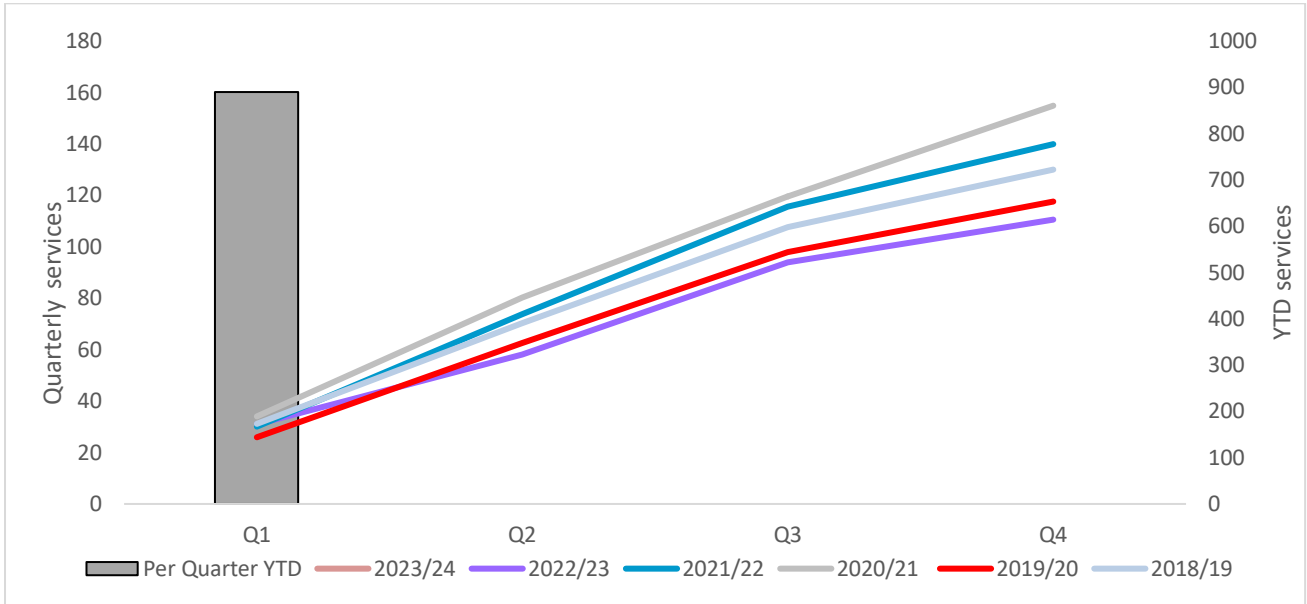
Figure 1: Registered greyhound population



Breeding

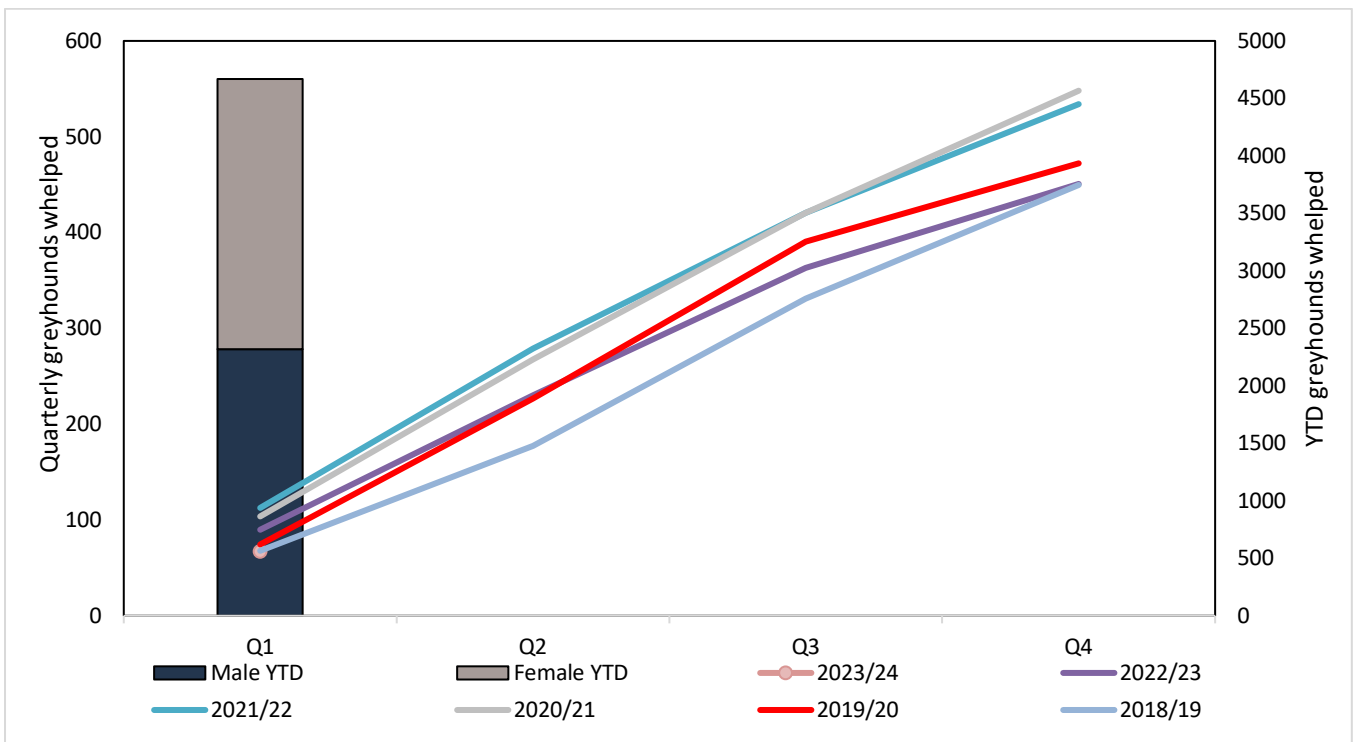
This quarter, the Commission received notifications of 160 breeding services, representing a 74% increase compared to the previous quarter (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Breeding services



This quarter, the Commission was notified of 560 pups whelped from 86 litters, a decrease of 24% compared to the total of pups in July-September 2022.

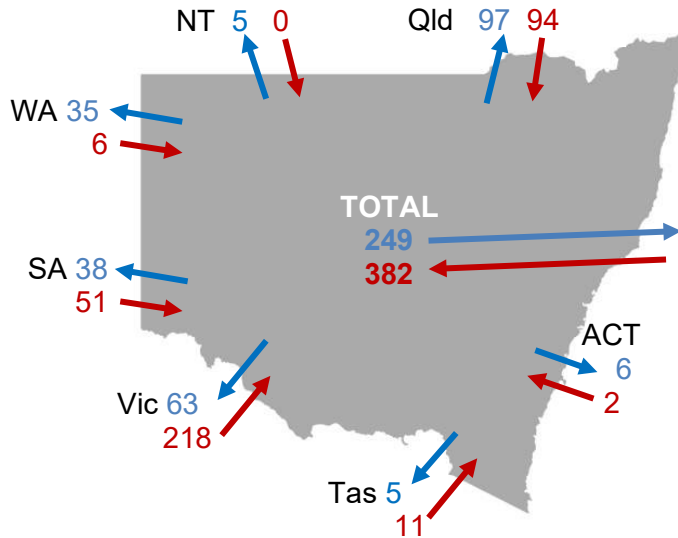
Figure 3: Pups whelped



Interstate transfers

During this quarter, 249 greyhounds were transferred out of NSW¹ to trainers in other jurisdictions, while 382 greyhounds came into NSW from other areas. The most significant exchanges occurred with Victoria and Queensland, reflecting the strong greyhound racing industries in those regions.

Figure 4: Greyhounds transferred into and out of NSW.



Retirement

Retired greyhounds owned by an industry participant remain registered with the Commission. Those that transfer to the ownership of a non-industry participant are registered as pets on the NSW Pet Registry and are no longer registered with the Commission.

Table 1: Greyhound retirements reported by participants this quarter.

Destination	Number	%
Retained by an industry participant	299	35%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	146	17%
Accepted by Greyhounds as Pets ¹ (GAP)	348	41%
Accepted by another animal adoption agency ²	55	6%
Other	0	0%
Total	848	

¹ A not-for-profit initiative coordinated by Greyhound Racing NSW.

² Including the RSPCA, AWL, or council animal care facilities.

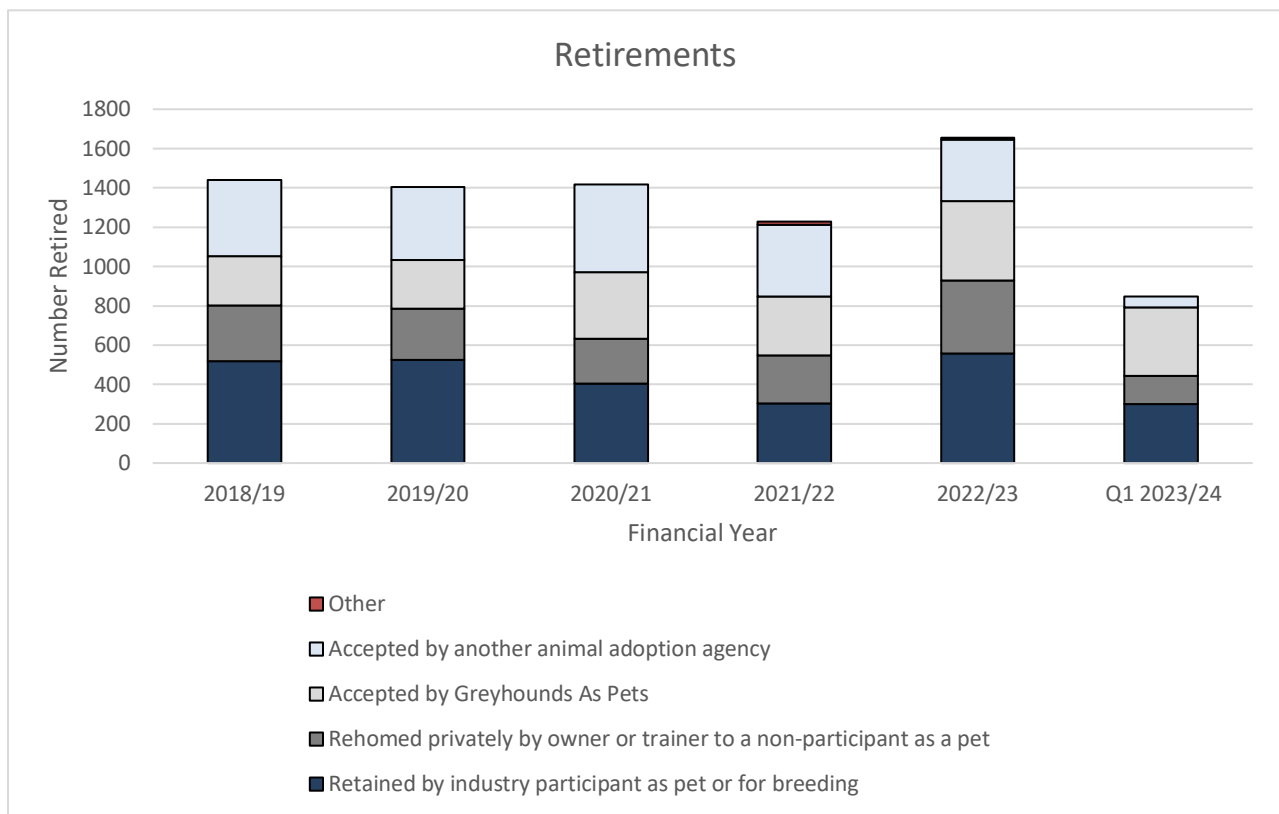
A total of 848 greyhounds were retired this quarter (Table 1), representing an 89% incline on the last quarter.

¹ This figure includes greyhounds registered in any jurisdiction, to more accurately count greyhound movements; previous reports have counted only greyhounds registered in NSW.

Table 2: Greyhound retirement trends

Destination	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%	FY 2022/23	%	Q1 2023/24	%
Retained by an industry participant	517	36%	524	37%	403	28%	302	25%	557	34%	299	35%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	285	20%	262	19%	229	16%	245	20%	371	22%	146	17%
Accepted by a Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) centre	249	17%	246	17%	339	24%	301	25%	404	24%	348	41%
Accepted by another animal adoption agency	390	27%	373	27%	447	32%	365	30%	314	19%	55	6%
Other							14	1%	8	<1%	0	0%
Total	1,441		1,405		1,418		1,227		1,654		848	

Figure 5: Greyhound retirement trends



The number of greyhounds retired this quarter has increased by 147% compared to the July-September 2022 period (Table 2, Figure 5).

This significant rise can be attributed to higher rates of eTrac check-ins, an increase in greyhounds accepted at GAP centres, and more industry participants retaining greyhounds as pets after receiving support from GRNSW, including desexing and veterinary treatments.

Euthanasia

Euthanasia of greyhounds registered with the Commission must conform with the Greyhound Rehoming Policy (<https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/integrity/rulesandpolicies>). Euthanasia categories used in this report are described in the policy.

Table 3: Greyhound euthanasia reported by participants this quarter.

Cause	Number	%
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack certified by a registered veterinarian due to		
injury ¹	24	26%
illness ¹	64	70%
Medical euthanasia due to emergency ²	0	0%
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury	1	1%
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming ³	2	2%
Total	91	

¹The veterinarian must certify that the greyhound was suffering from an intractable injury or illness that causes significant pain or discomfort, or a marked reduction in quality of life, such that is inhumane or would otherwise compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia.

²The circumstances surrounding any emergency euthanasia are examined by the Commission to ensure they are in accordance with the Commission's policies and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

³Euthanasia for behavioural reasons is not currently permitted under the Greyhound Rehoming Policy. These cases are investigated to determine if a breach of the Policy has occurred.

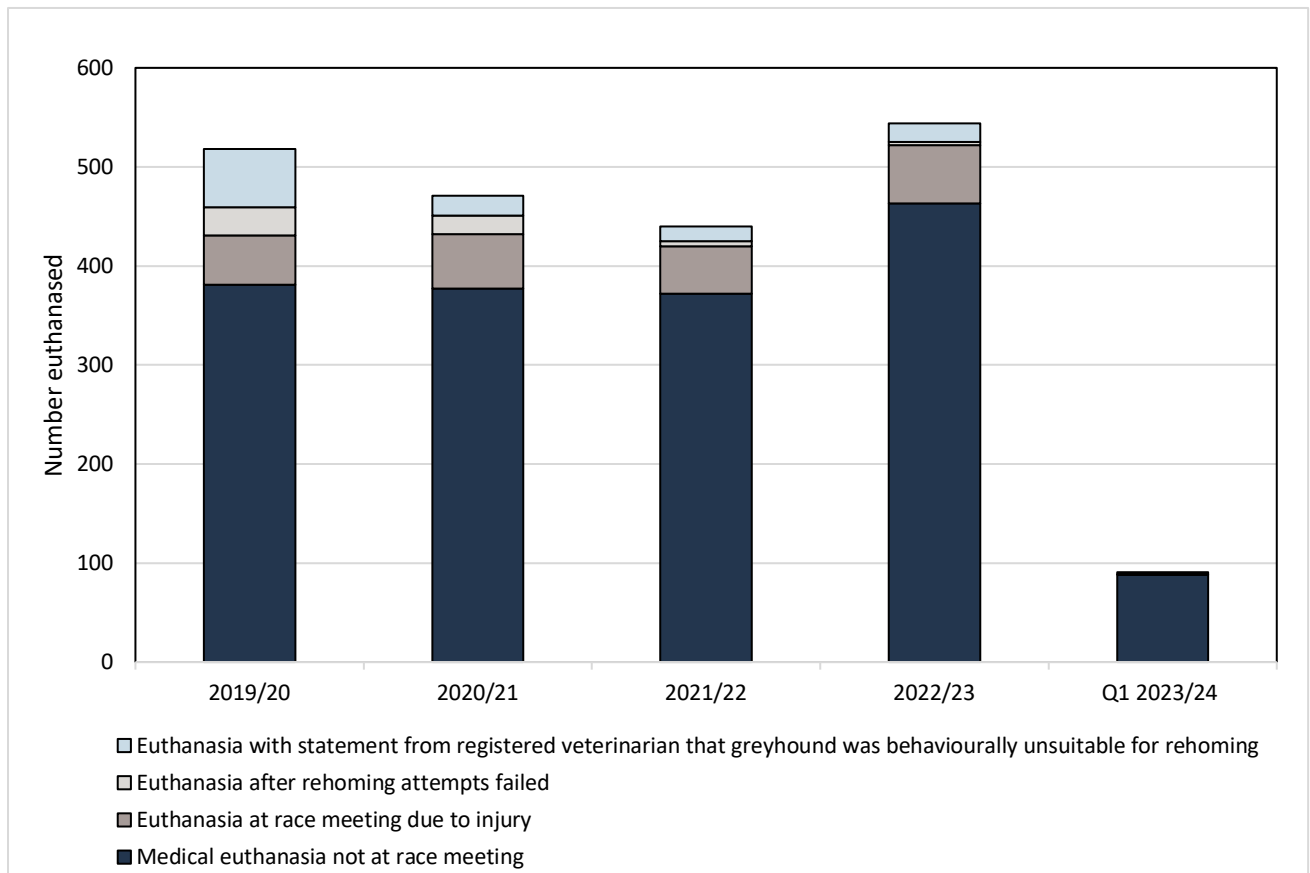
A total of 91 greyhounds were euthanased this quarter, 97% for illness or injury not at the racetrack (Table 3).

Table 4: Greyhound euthanasia trends

Cause	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%	FY 2022/23	%	Q1 2023/24	%
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack	396	62%	381	74%	377	80%	372	85%	463	85%	88	97%
Euthanasia at racetrack	97	15%	50	10%	55	12%	48	11%	59	11%	1	1%
Rehoming attempts failed	36	6%	28	5%	19	4%	5	1%	3	1%	0	0%
Behaviourally unsuitable ¹	106	17%	59	11%	20	4%	15	3%	19	3%	2	2%
Total	635		518		471		440		544		91	

¹Euthanasia for behavioural reasons was not permitted under the Greyhound Rehoming Policy from 1 December 2019 onwards. Current GWIC policy requires this notification to be certified as necessary by a veterinary practitioner.

Figure 6: Greyhound euthanasia trends



The number of greyhounds euthanased in this quarter is 24% lower than the last (Table 4).

This quarter’s mere 1% contribution from on-track euthanasia remarkably contrasts the 10-15% contributions in previous years (Table 4). Likewise, the percentage of greyhounds euthanased due to behavioural problems continues to decline from 2018/19’s 17%, positioned here at 2% (Table 4).

Death

Table 5: Greyhound deaths reported by participants this quarter.

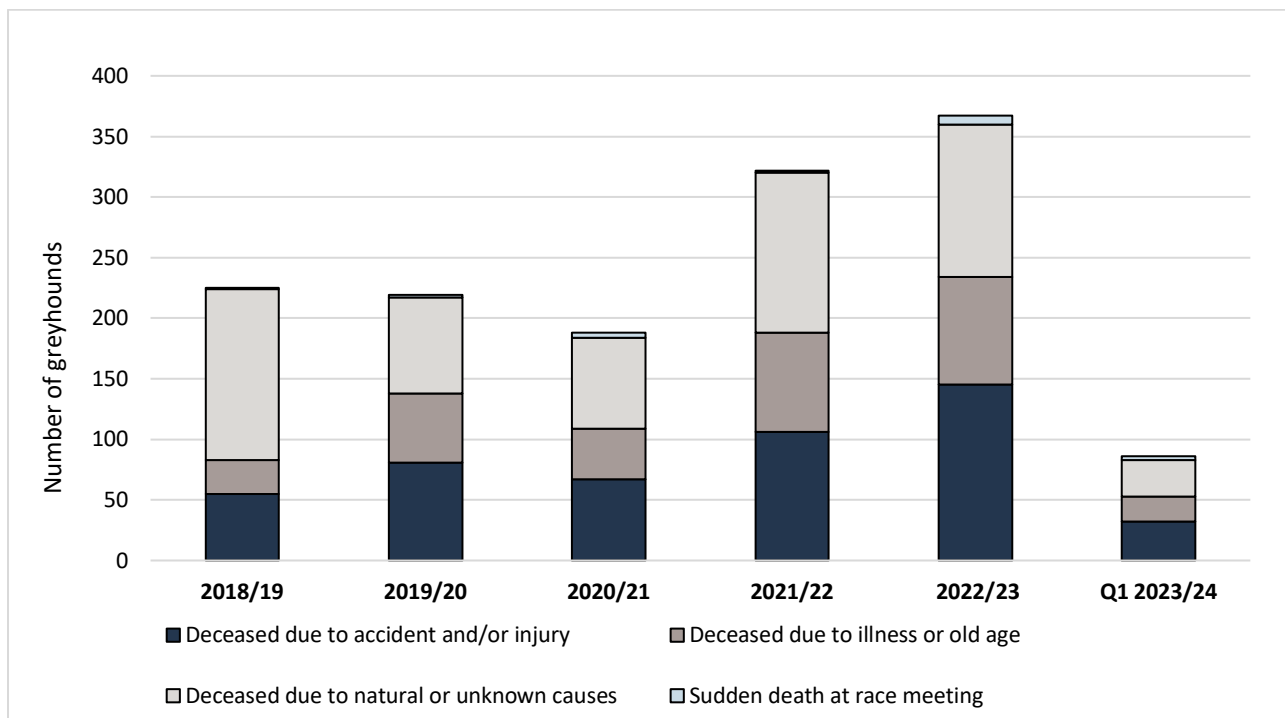
Cause	Number	%
Deceased due to accident and/or injury	32	37%
Deceased due to illness or old age	21	24%
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	30	35%
Sudden death at race meeting	3	3%
Total	86	

A total of 86 greyhounds died this quarter, 33% of them from illness, old age, or unknown causes (Table 5).

Table 6: Greyhound death notification trends

Cause	FY		FY		FY		FY		FY		Q1	
	2018/19	%	2019/20	%	2020/21	%	2021/22	%	2022/23	%	2023/24	%
Accident and injury	55	24%	81	37%	67	36%	106	33%	145	40%	32	37%
Illness or old age	28	12%	57	26%	42	22%	82	25%	89	24%	21	24%
Natural or unknown causes	141	63%	79	36%	75	40%	132	41%	126	34%	30	35%
Sudden death at race meeting	1	<1%	2	<1%	4	2%	2	<1%	7	2%	3	3%
Total	225		219		188		322		367		86	

Figure 7: Greyhound death notification trends



Since the previous quarter, the number of greyhound deaths has decreased by 12%. This opposes the 14% rise from FY2022 to FY2023 (Figure 7).

While the recent quarterly decline may attribute to slightly delayed submissions, the overall improvement in participant compliance with the requirement to submit death notifications has contributed to the yearly increase since 2020/21.