

# Greyhound life cycle report

1 July – 30 September 2022



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

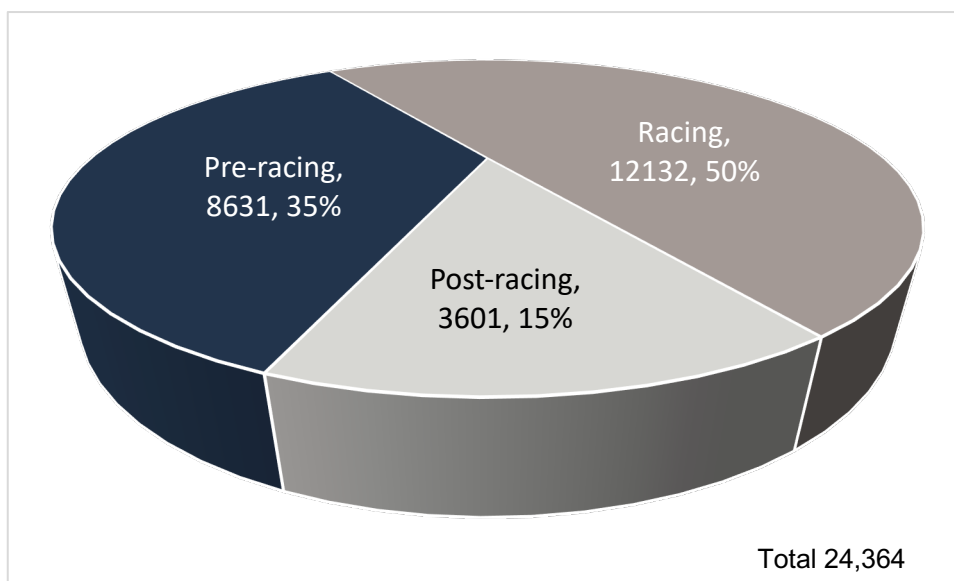
*Note that figures for previous financial years and quarters may be higher than those published in annual reports and in previous greyhound life cycle reports due to reconciliation for late notifications. Figures for breeding service and pups whelped may also differ from the sum of monthly reports due to reconciliation for late notifications.*

## Greyhound numbers and status

The number of greyhounds on the NSW Greyhound Register as at 15 September 2022 was 24,364 (Figure 1), 529 fewer than on 30 June 2022. Greyhounds on the NSW register are those owned by a NSW participant.

The decline in pre-racing greyhounds (by 579 or 2%) is possibly due to a natural seasonal decline in breeding over winter months.

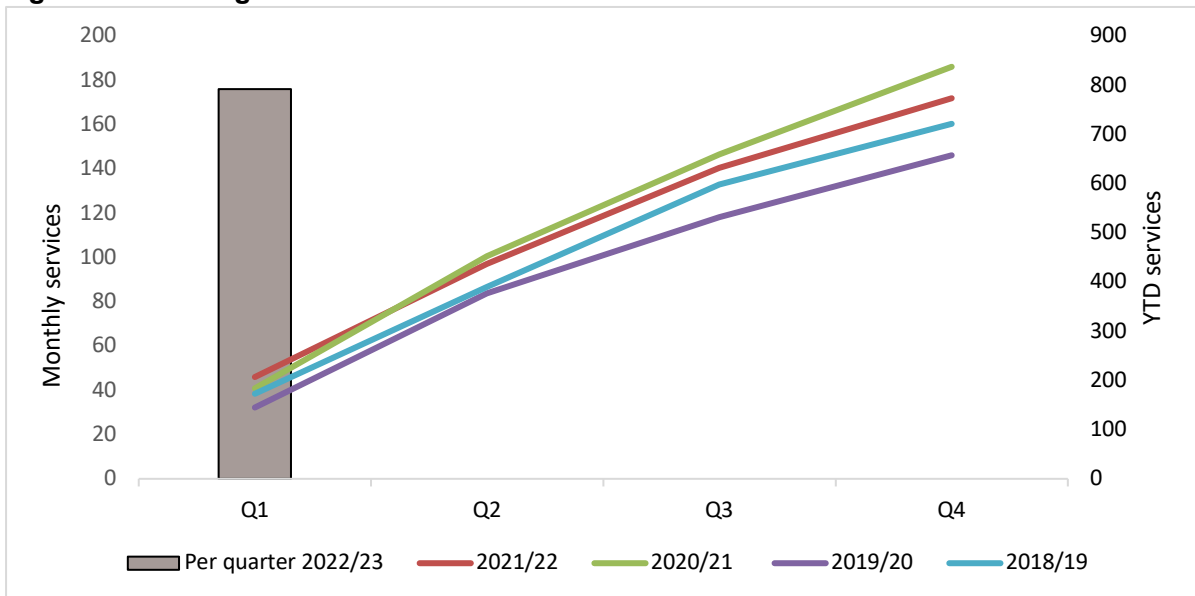
**Figure 1: Status of greyhounds on the NSW Greyhound Register**



## Breeding

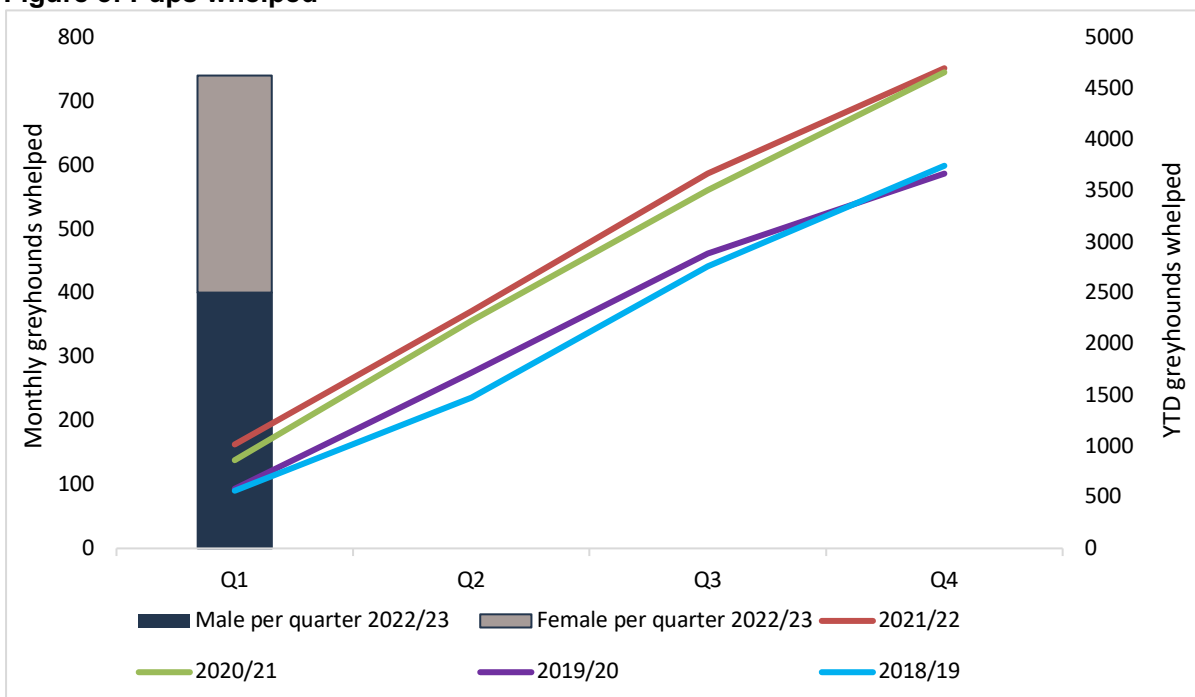
The Commission was notified of 176 greyhound breeding services during the quarter (Q1) (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Breeding services**



The Commission was notified of 741 pups whelped from 108 litters during the quarter (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Pups whelped**

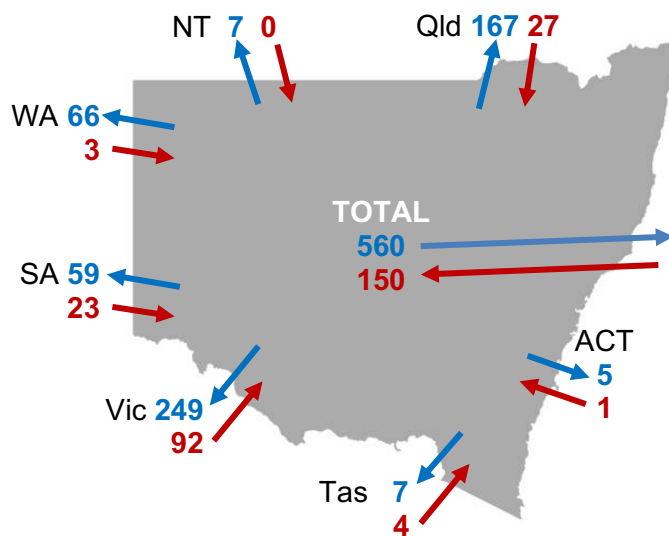


## Interstate transfers and international exports

This quarter, 560 NSW-registered greyhounds were transferred out of NSW to other jurisdictions and 150 greyhounds were transferred from other jurisdictions into NSW (Figure 4). The largest exchanges both in and out of NSW were with Victoria and Queensland, probably reflecting the relative size of the greyhound racing industries in those states.

No international exports were recorded in the quarter.

**Figure 4: Greyhounds transferred into and out of NSW**



## Retirement

Retired greyhounds that are 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	88	26%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	72	21%
Accepted by Greyhounds As Pets <sup>1</sup>	78	23%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency <sup>2</sup>	95	28%
Other	10	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	

<sup>1</sup> A not-for-profit initiative coordinated by Greyhound Racing NSW.

<sup>2</sup> Including the RSPCA, AWL or council animal care facilities.

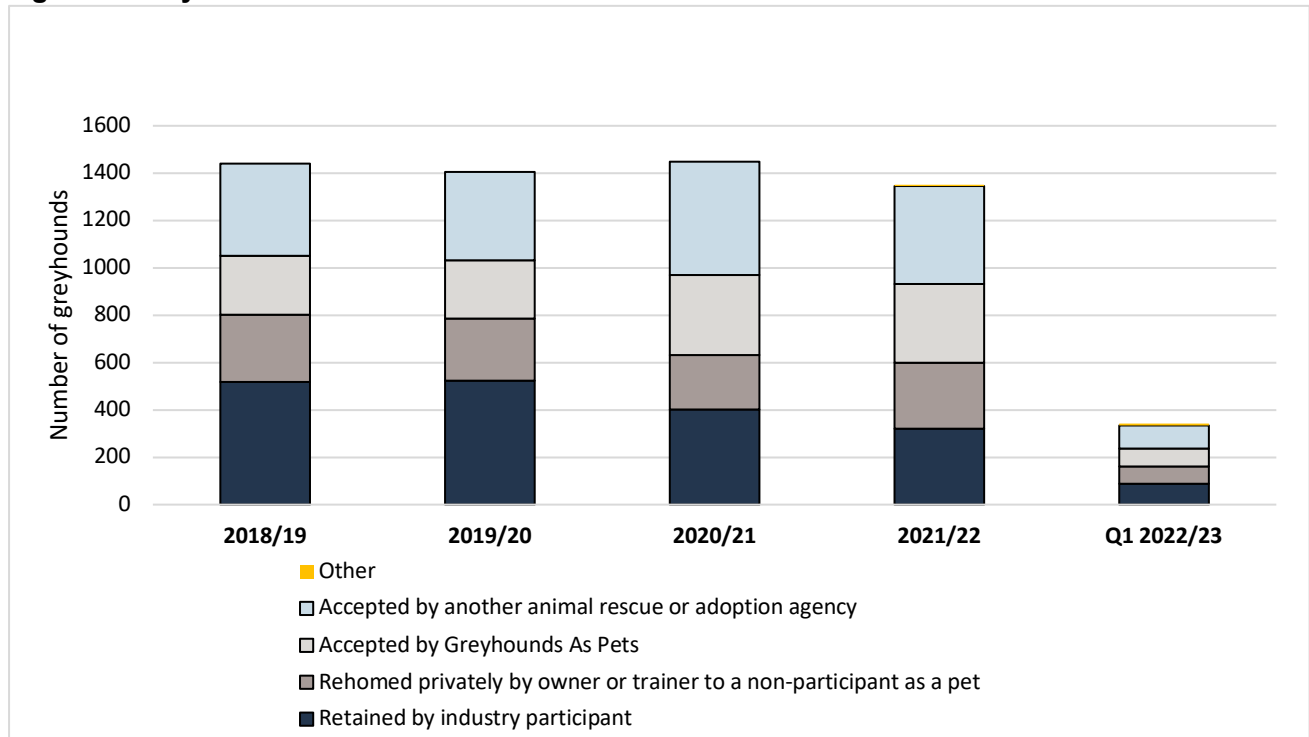
The Commission was notified of 343 greyhound retirements during the quarter (Table 1).

**Table 2: Greyhound retirement trends\***

Destination	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22*	%	Q1 2022/23	%
Retained by an industry participant	517	36%	524	37%	403	28%	321	24%	88	26%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	285	20%	262	19%	229	16%	277	20%	72	21%
Accepted by Greyhounds as Pets (GAP)	249	17%	246	17%	339	23%	335	25%	78	23%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency	390	27%	373	27%	477	33%	405	30%	95	28%
Other							14	1%	10	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1441</b>		<b>1405</b>		<b>1448</b>		<b>1352</b>		<b>343</b>	

\*Some figures are higher than those reported in annual reports and in previous greyhound life cycle reports due to reconciliation for late notifications.

**Figure 5: Greyhound retirement trends**



The number of greyhounds retired in 2021/22 was slightly lower than in previous years, although the number may increase as late notifications are received (Table 2). Data from Q1 alone is insufficient to determine whether this trend will continue in 2022/23.

The proportion of retired greyhounds retained by an industry participant has declined over the last four financial years, while the proportion accepted by the NSW Greyhounds As Pets has increased (Figure 5).

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	33	26.7%
illness <sup>1</sup>	66	53.7%
Medical euthanasia due to emergency <sup>2</sup>	0	0%
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury	17	14%
Euthanasia after rehoming attempts failed	2	2%
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming <sup>3</sup>	5	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

<sup>2</sup>The 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*.

<sup>3</sup>Euthanasia 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.

The Commission was notified of 121 registered greyhounds euthanased during the quarter (Table 3); 82% of these were euthanased as a result of illness or injury not occurring at a racetrack (Table 4).

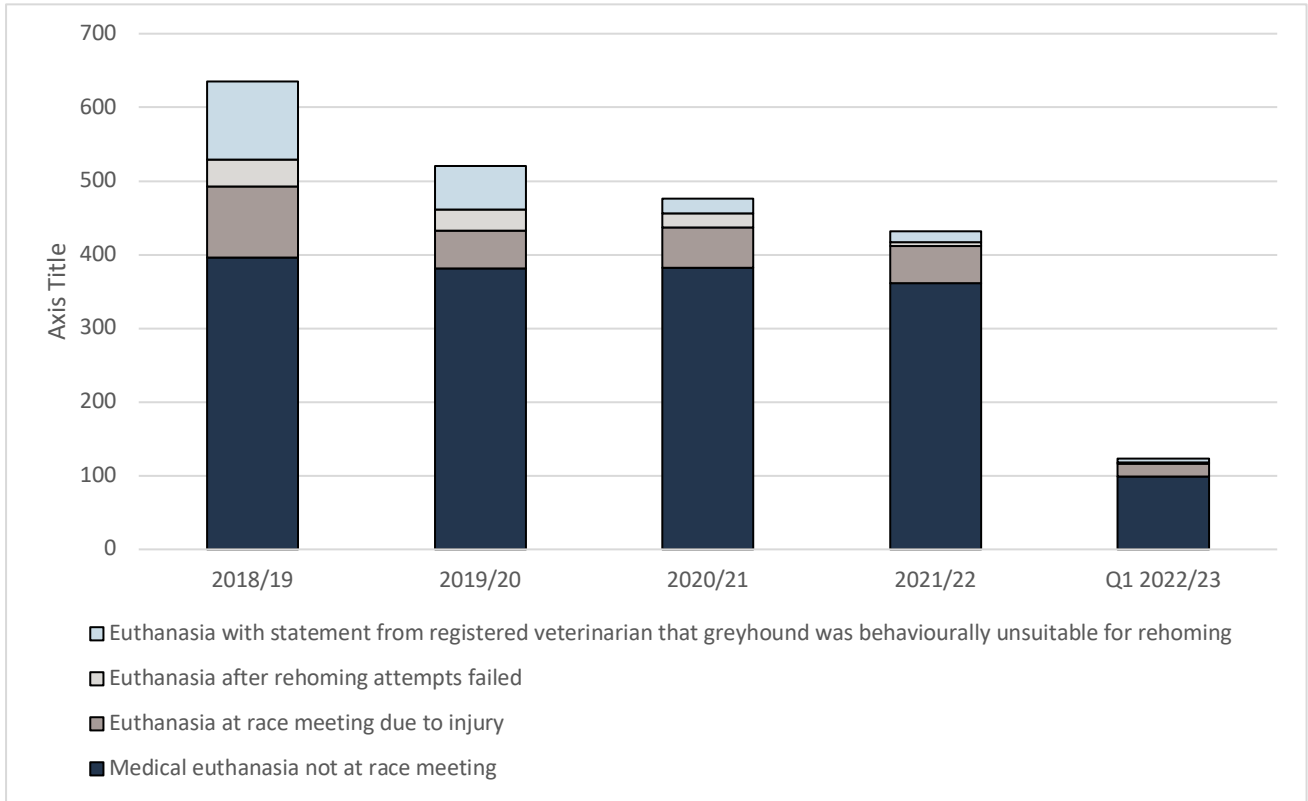
**Table 4: Greyhound euthanasia trends<sup>1</sup>**

Cause	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%	Q1 2022/23	%
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack	437	65%	400	74%	391	80%	376	85%	99	80%
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury	97	14%	50	9%	55	11%	48	11%	17	14%
Rehoming attempts failed	36	5%	28	5%	19	4%	5	1%	2	2%
Behaviourally unsuitable <sup>2</sup>	106	16%	61	11%	21	4%	15	3%	5	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>676</b>		<b>539</b>		<b>486</b>		<b>444</b>		<b>123</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Some figures are higher than those reported in annual reports and in previous greyhound life cycle reports due to reconciliation for late notifications.

<sup>2</sup>Euthanasia 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**



\*Note that these figures

The number of greyhounds euthanased declined in 2021/22, which is consistent with the trend since 2018/19 (Figure 6). However, data from Q1 alone is insufficient to determine whether this trend will continue in 2022/23.

The proportion of greyhounds euthanased for medical reasons (not at race meetings) has remained relatively stable over three years, while the annual proportion euthanased after the failure of rehoming attempts and for behavioural reasons has declined since 2018/19.

## Death

The Commission was notified of 83 greyhound deaths during the quarter, with 76% of these greyhounds dying from illness, old age or unknown causes (Table 5).

**Table 5: Greyhound deaths reported by participants this quarter**

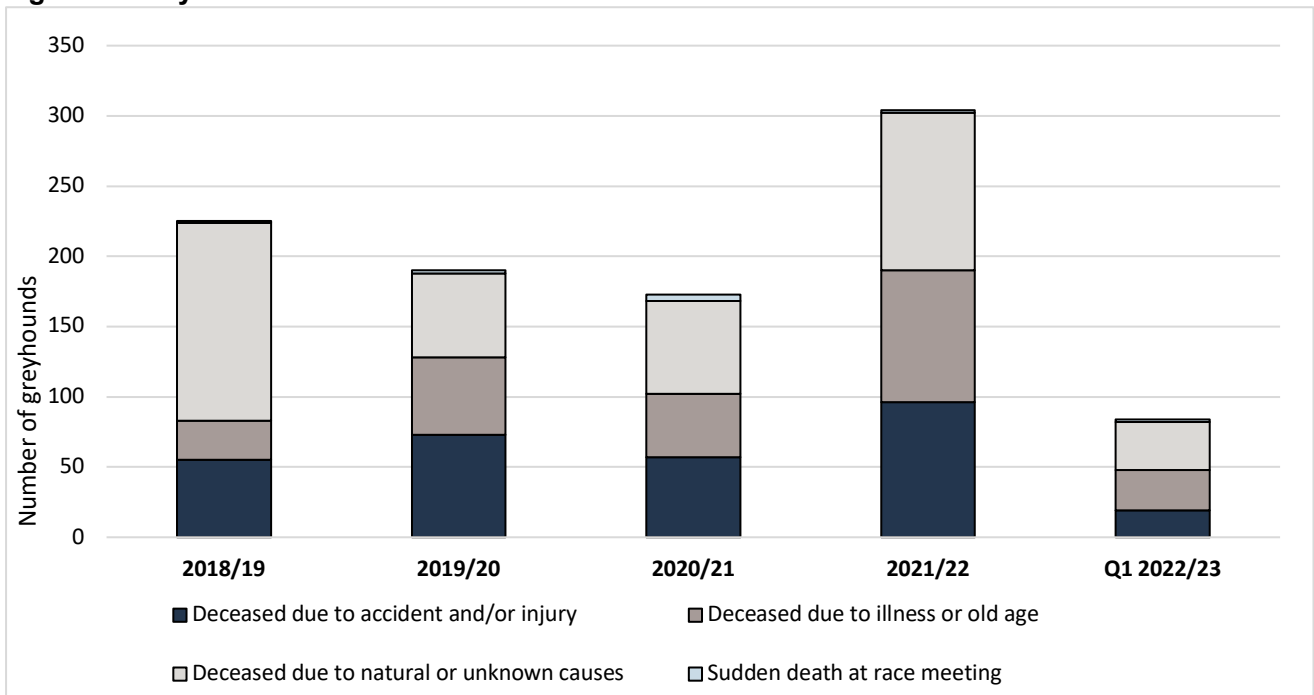
Cause	Number	%
Deceased due to accident and/or injury	19	23%
Deceased due to illness or old age	29	35%
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	34	40%
Sudden death at race meeting	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	

**Table 6: Greyhound death notification trends**

Cause	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%	Q1 2022/23	%
Accident and injury	62	26%	96	38%	76	36%	109	33%	19	23%
Illness or old age	27	11%	76	30%	57	27%	104	31%	29	35%
Natural or unknown causes	146	62%	76	30%	77	36%	119	36%	34	40%
Sudden death at race meeting	1	0%	2	1%	4	2%	2	1%	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>84</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Some figures are higher than those reported in annual reports and in previous greyhound life cycle reports due to reconciliation for late notifications.

**Figure 7: Greyhound death notification trends**



The number of greyhounds that died in 2021/2022 is noticeably higher than in previous years (Table 6, Figure 7). This may be a factor of the size and age of the greyhound population, as greyhounds whelped prior to 2015/16 where breeding was high are now reaching an age where they are more likely to die from illness and old age.

## Rehoming supply and demand

The number of greyhounds rehomed has remained stable for the last four years, while the number of pups whelped has increased, albeit not to the levels prior to 2015/16. As most greyhounds are likely to stop racing at or before four years of age, the graph below sets out the estimated number of greyhounds that may be available for rehoming each year.

This estimate is derived by taking total number of greyhounds whelped in year n-4 then (a) deducting the number of greyhounds that have died in subsequent years; and (b) deducting the number of greyhounds transferred to other jurisdictions.

Based upon the assumption outlined above, this data indicates a potential increase in pressure on rehoming places as set out in Figure 8 (below).

The Commission is working to develop a population model which will provide more accurate projections regarding the potential number of greyhounds needing to be rehomed in future years. The Commission will work with Greyhound Racing NSW on refining the population model to ensure the accuracy of data and the forecasts that can possibly be made based on this data.

Delays in notification of rehoming events may mean that the number of greyhounds rehomed in 2021/22 is higher than recorded in Figure 8 below. The Commission is working with GRNSW to ensure the accuracy of rehoming data.

**Figure 8: Greyhound rehoming challenge**

