

MEDIA STATEMENT

Commission releases Injury Report for first quarter of 2019

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has today released greyhound racing injury statistics relating to the first quarter of 2019.

During the quarter, the Commission supervised 236 greyhound race meetings consisting of 2,353 races and 17,520 greyhound starts.

A total of 1,267 post-race examinations of greyhounds were conducted by the Commission's On-Track Veterinarians (OTV's), with 657 injury events recorded from examinations conducted after races.

Of these, the vast majority (505 or 76.9%) of post-race injuries were recorded as minor I, minor II or medium category injuries. Minor I injuries do not require any rest period, minor II injuries could require up to 10 days off the track, and medium injuries could require a period of up to 21 days off the track. No stand down (or rest) period is required for minor I injuries, which include minor cuts, abrasions, pad injuries or Grade 1 muscle injuries not requiring treatment.

In the same quarter there were 32 greyhound fatalities at race meetings in NSW and of these 30 were euthanased as a result of catastrophic injuries sustained during racing. Two greyhounds died suddenly in the post-race period due to ruptured arteries. This is a reduction in the number of fatalities recorded in the commensurate quarter in the prior year (quarter 1 2018). A new industry race injury treatment scheme has been made available to participants with seriously injured greyhounds. The scheme will cover the costs of diagnosis and treatment of these injuries and prevent euthanasia of greyhounds due to the cost of veterinary treatment.

Injuries are reported by the Commission's OTV's and entered into an injury database which is managed by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

The Commission is committed to working to reduce the incidence and severity of greyhound injuries, and to the transparent and accurate reporting of injuries.

The Commission's Race Injury Review Panel is an initiative undertaken to reduce the incidence of injuries. The panel meets monthly to analyse contributing factors of all catastrophic and serious injuries in racing greyhounds and uses these insights to develop track safety initiatives.

The information provided by the Commission's quarterly Injury Reports will inform further development of track safety standards and racing regulations in NSW to ensure the welfare greyhounds remains at the forefront of racing.

The Commission's injury reports are available on the Commission's website www.gwic.nsw.gov.au