

Greyhound life cycle report

1 April – 30 June 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 breeding, naming, retirement, euthanasia and death for greyhounds registered with the Commission.

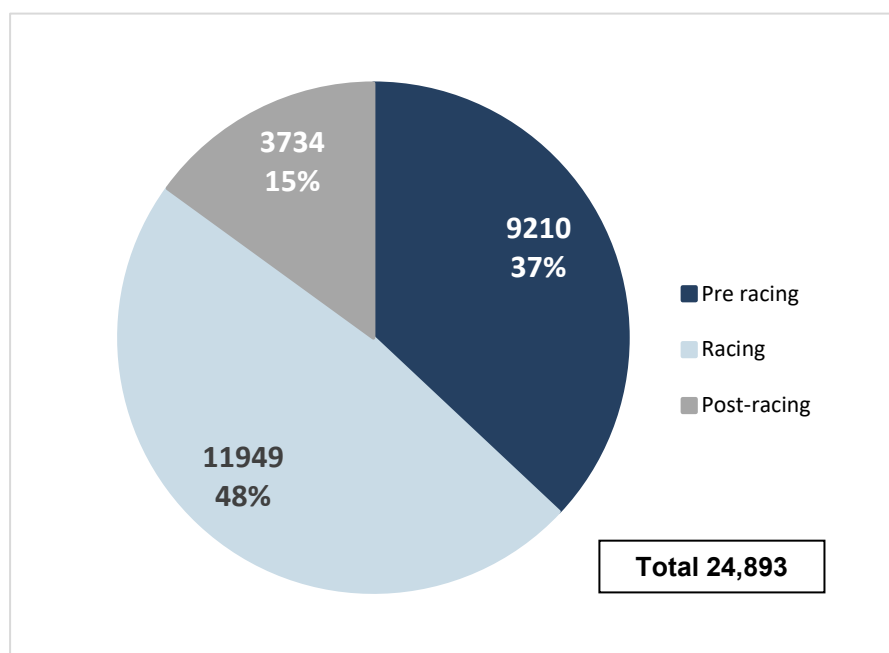
Participants are required to notify the Commission within 14 days from the date of servicing, whelping and retirement, and within two days from the date of euthanasia or death of a greyhound.

Note that financial year figures have been reconciled for the full year and include late notifications, so may not match the sum of figures in previous quarterly reports.

Greyhound numbers and status

The number of greyhounds on the NSW register as at June 2022 was 24,893 (Figure 1). This is 1,713 more than at 4 August 2021, but the proportion of greyhounds in each category is similar (36% pre-racing and 16% post racing in 2021).

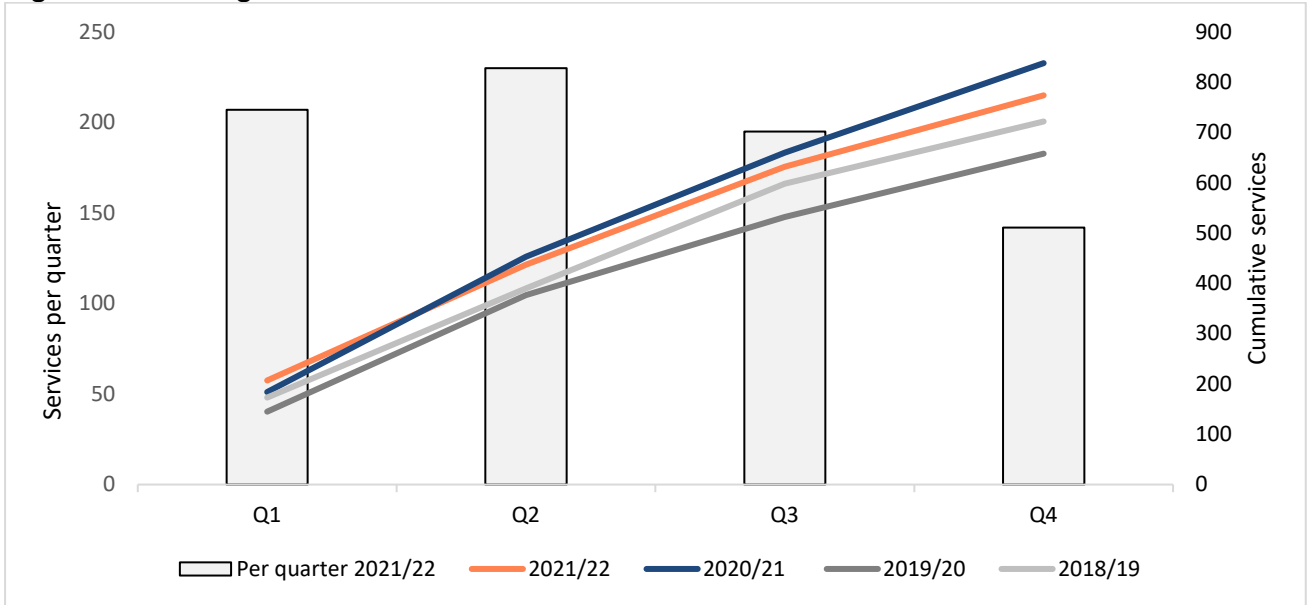
Figure 1: Status of greyhounds



Breeding

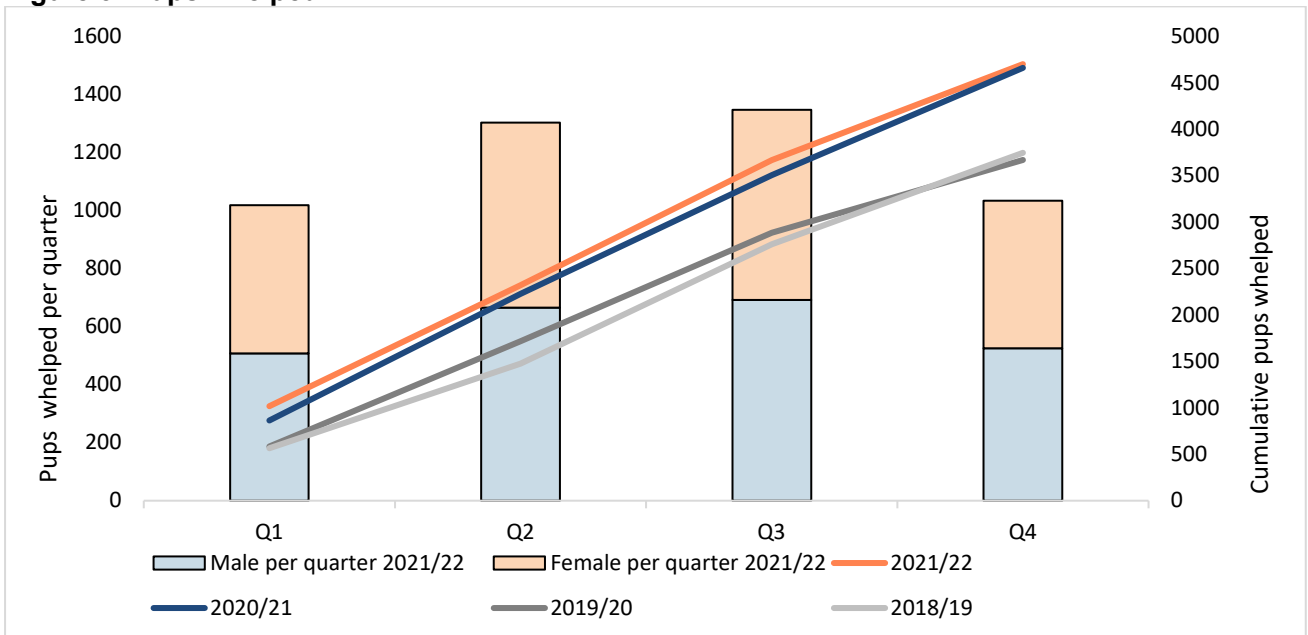
This quarter 142 breeding services were notified to the Commission, bringing the total number of breeding services to 774 in 2021/22. This is lower than the 836 registered in the previous financial year (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Breeding services



This quarter 1034 pups whelped from 158 litters were notified to the Commission, bringing the total number of pups whelped in 2021/22 to 4702. This is similar to the 4662 pups whelped in the previous financial year (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Pups whelped



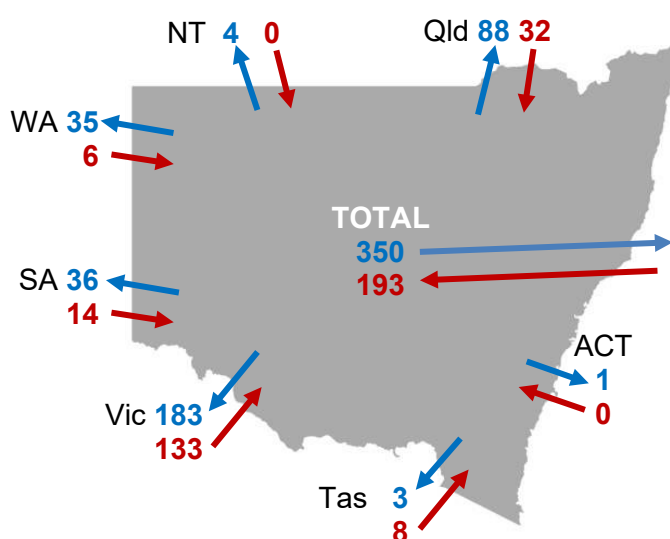
Interstate transfers and international exports

This quarter, 350 NSW-registered greyhounds were transferred out of NSW to other jurisdictions and 193 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.

The NSW industry is a net supplier of unraced pups, with 168 pups that were whelped in NSW transferred interstate to their first trainer, outnumbering the 96 pups whelped interstate which were transferred into NSW to their first trainer.

No international exports were recorded this 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	87	29%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	61	20%
Accepted by Greyhounds As Pets ¹	72	24%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency ²	78	26%
Other	1	<1%
Total	299	

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

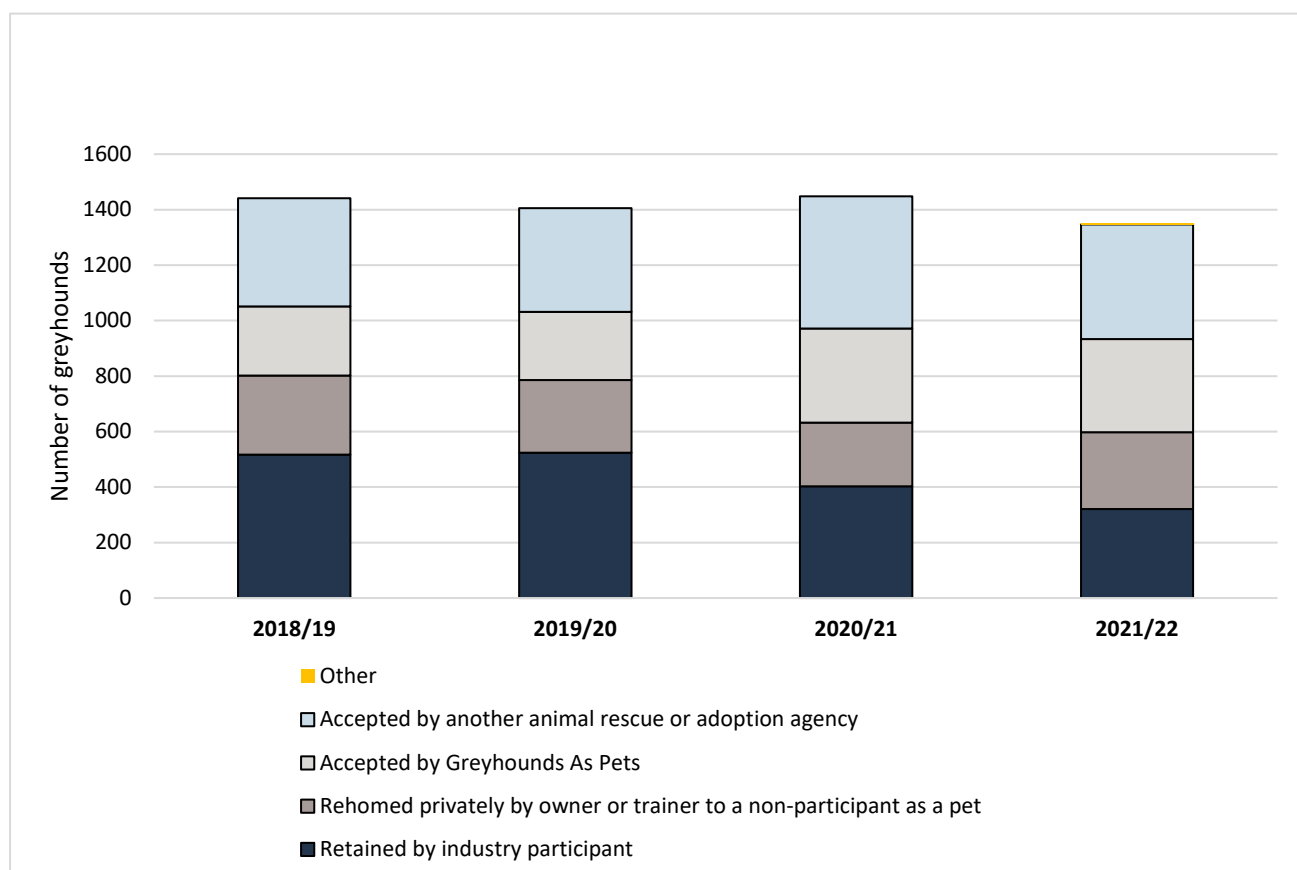
² Including the RSPCA, AWL or council animal care facilities.

A total of 299 greyhounds were retired this quarter (Table 1).

Table 2: Greyhound retirement trends

Destination	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%
Retained by an industry participant	517	36%	524	37%	403	28%	321	24%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	285	20%	262	19%	229	16%	277	20%
Accepted by Greyhounds as Pets (GAP)	249	17%	246	17%	339	23%	335	25%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency	390	27%	373	27%	477	33%	414	31%
Other							5	<1%
Total	1441		1405		1448		1352	

Figure 5: Greyhound retirement trends



The number of greyhounds retired in 2021/22 was slightly lower than in previous years (Table 2).

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 ¹	44	38%
illness ¹	55	47%
Medical euthanasia due to emergency ²	0	0%
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury	14	12%
Euthanasia after rehoming attempts failed	0	0%
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming ³	3	3%
Total	116	

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 116 greyhounds were euthanased this quarter, 85 % for illness or injury not at the racetrack (Table 3).

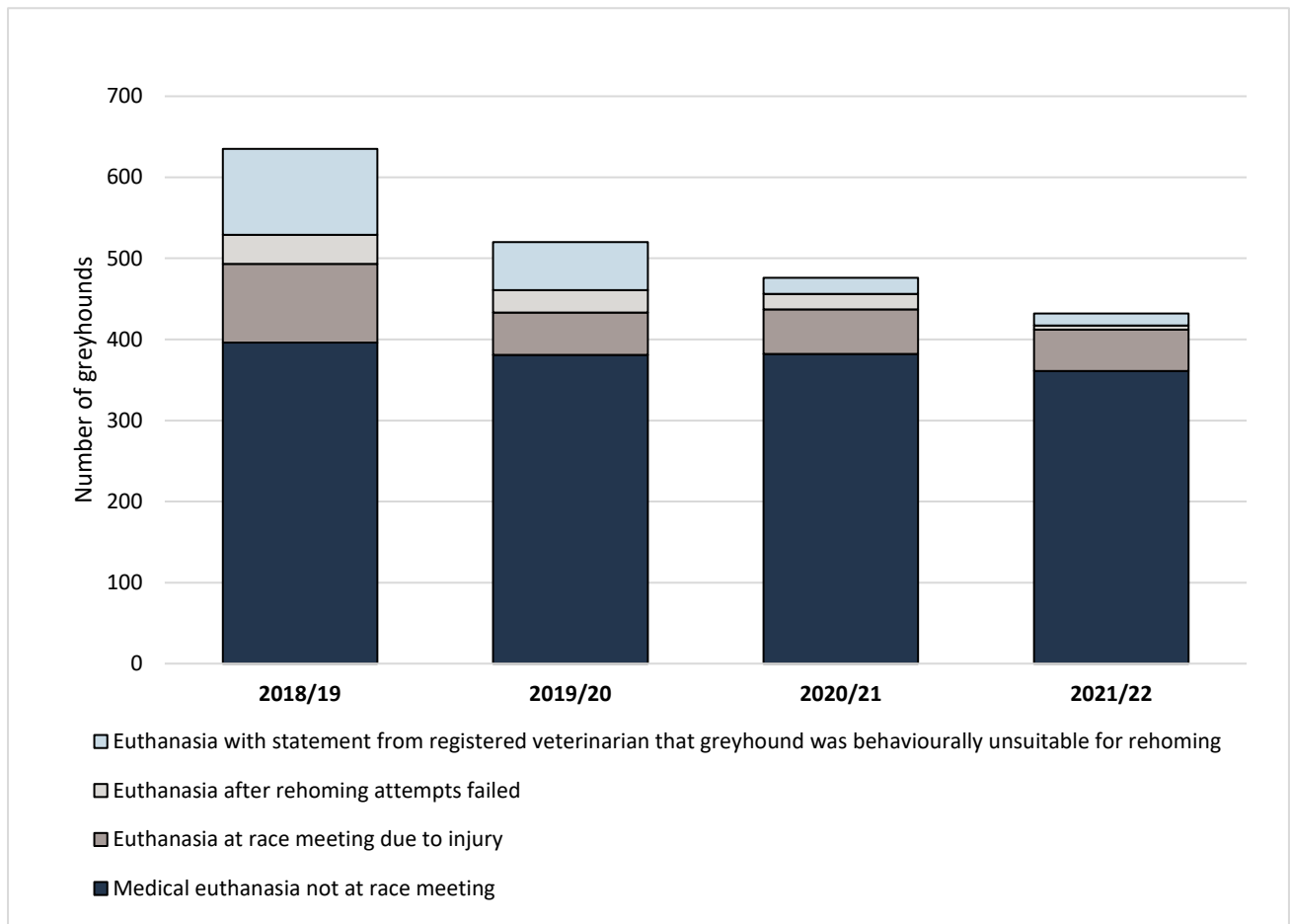
Table 4: Greyhound euthanasia trends

Cause	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack	396	62%	381	73%	382	80%	361	84%
Euthanasia at racetrack	97	15%	52	10%	55	12%	51	12%
Rehoming attempts failed	36	6%	28	6%	19	4%	5	1%
Behaviourally unsuitable ¹	106	17%	59	11%	20	4%	15	3%
Total	635		520		476		432	

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.

The number of greyhounds euthanased in 2021/22 was slightly lower than previous years (Table 4).

Figure 6: Greyhound euthanasia trends



The number of greyhounds euthanased has declined this financial year, consistent with the trend since 2018/19 (Figure 6).

The proportion of greyhounds euthanased for medical reasons (not at race meetings) has remained relatively stable over three years, while the proportion euthanased after the failure of rehoming attempts and for behavioural reasons continues to decline.

Death

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	41%
Sudden death at race meeting	1	1%
Total	83	

A total of 83 greyhounds died this quarter, 76% of them from illness, old age or unknown causes (Table 5).

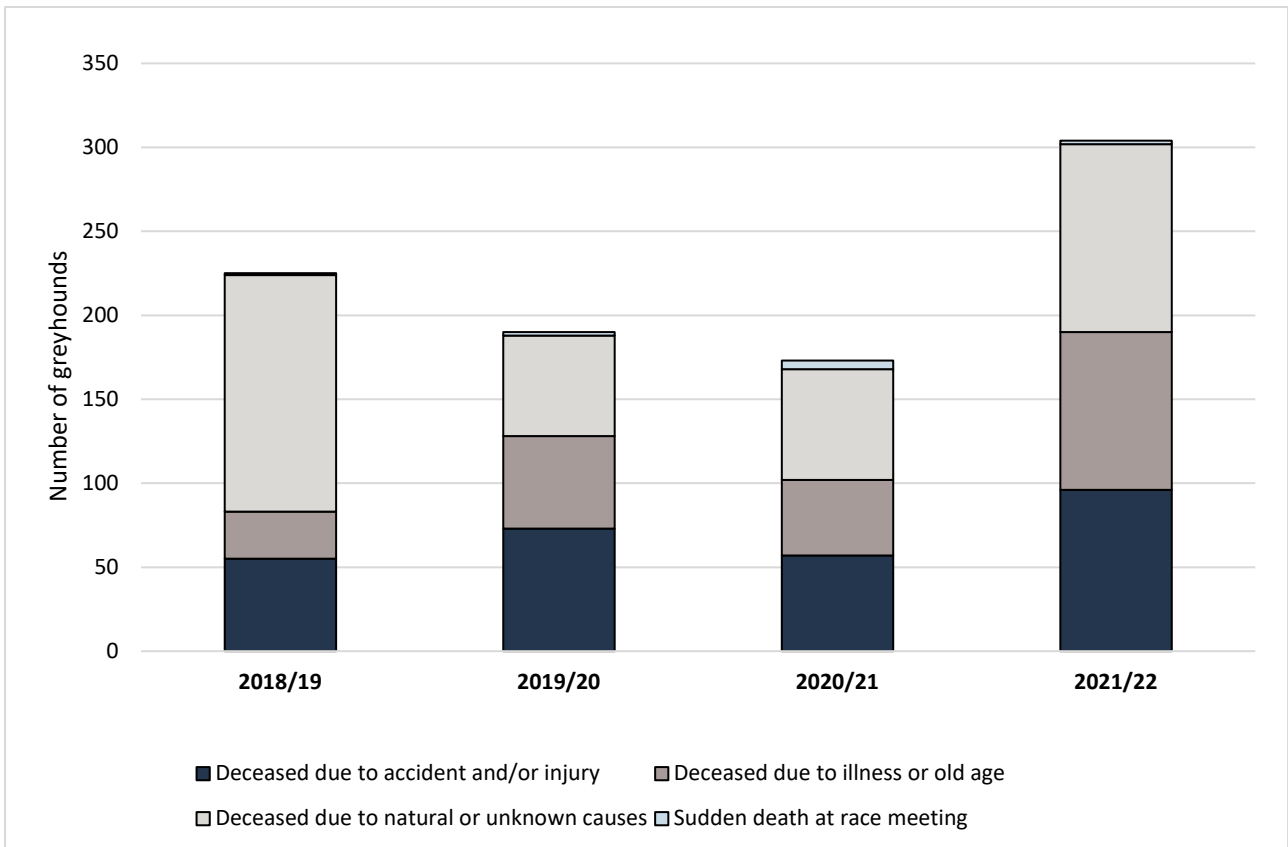
Table 6: Greyhound death notification trends

Cause	FY 2018/19 ¹	%	FY 2019/20 ²	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%
Accident and injury	55	24%	73	37%	57	33%	96	32%
Illness or old age	28	12%	55	31%	45	26%	94	31%
Natural or unknown causes	141	63%	60	31%	66	38%	112	37%
Sudden death at race meeting	1	>1%	2	1%	5	3%	2	>1%
Total	225		190		173		304	

¹ Numbers are deaths full financial year as reported to the Commission at 11/12/ 2020

² Numbers are deaths full financial year as reported to the Commission at 4/8/2020

Figure 7: Greyhound death notification trends



The proportion of greyhound deaths attributed to each cause has remained relatively stable since 2019/20.

The number of greyhounds that died this financial year is noticeably higher than in previous financial years. This may be a feature of the size and age of the greyhound population, as greyhounds whelped in years where breeding was higher 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. 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 looking to develop a population model which will be designed to 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.

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

