



# FACT SHEET

## Prevention measures for serious injuries in racing



The Commission encourages all owners, breeders and trainers to implement measures at all stages of a greyhound's life to reduce the likelihood of bone fractures occurring.

Preventing serious injuries in racing greyhounds requires this whole-of-life approach - from breeding and rearing through to training and racing.

### PREVENTION MEASURES

Greyhounds love to run and are the fastest dog breed on the planet - they are able to reach speeds in excess of 65 kilometres per hour.

Racing greyhounds are elite athletes and just like athletes in human sports, injuries can sometimes occur.

The most serious racing injuries typically involve bone fractures, often involving the limbs.

But by implementing evidence-informed strategies, we can help ensure the health, safety, and longevity of our greyhound athletes.

### BREEDING: BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

- Consider selected sires and dams with racing longevity (e.g. a minimum of 50 starts).
- Consider avoiding sires and dams with a serious injury (fracture) history.
- Ensure breeding dams are provided with the best possible nutrition to ensure optimal health, especially when pregnant and lactating.
- Breeding dams should be fed a high-quality puppy kibble as the primary component of their diet from the start of pregnancy (e.g. insemination, mating), to ensure the healthy growth and development of their puppies.



### REARING: SUPPORTING HEALTHY GROWTH

- Nursing dams and puppies (until at least 14-15 months when skeleton maturity is reached) should be fed high-quality puppy kibble as the majority of their diet.
- Avoid feeding 'fillers' such as cereals or bread, which have low nutritional value to growing greyhounds.
- Limit excessive meat in the diet of growing greyhounds as this may lead to a calcium and phosphorus imbalance, which can be detrimental to bone development.
- Ensure puppies and young greyhounds have plenty of space to run and play to ensure their bones and soft tissues develop and build strength.

