

# Greyhound life cycle report

1 January – 31 March 2025



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.

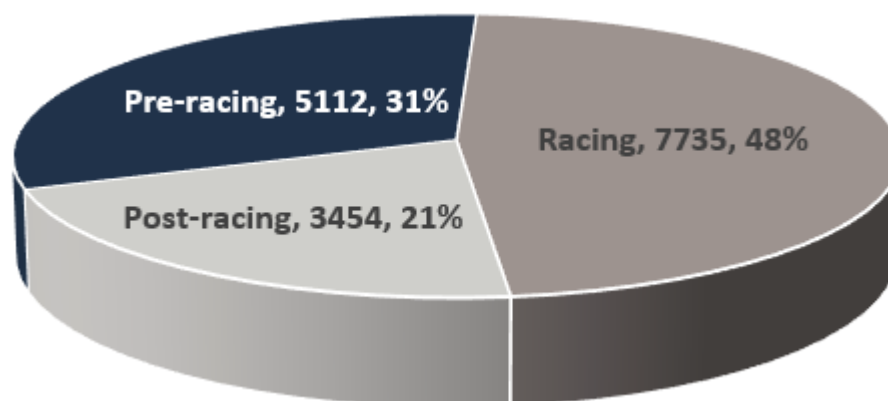
*Figures for this quarter may be lower than in future reports due to late notifications from participants. Values for previous financial years have been reconciled with annual reports for greater accuracy. Interstate transfer information is not included in this report pending an audit of transfer processes between data systems.*

## Greyhound numbers and status

As at 31 March 2025, the estimated industry greyhound population was 16,301 (Figure 1), a decrease of 226 (1.4%) from the previous quarter.

The proportion of greyhounds with a racing status has decreased by 2% while the proportion of greyhounds with a post-racing (retired) status has increased slightly. This may be the result of the Commission's requirement to check-in greyhounds, which creates an incentive for owners and trainers to retire greyhounds which will never race again.

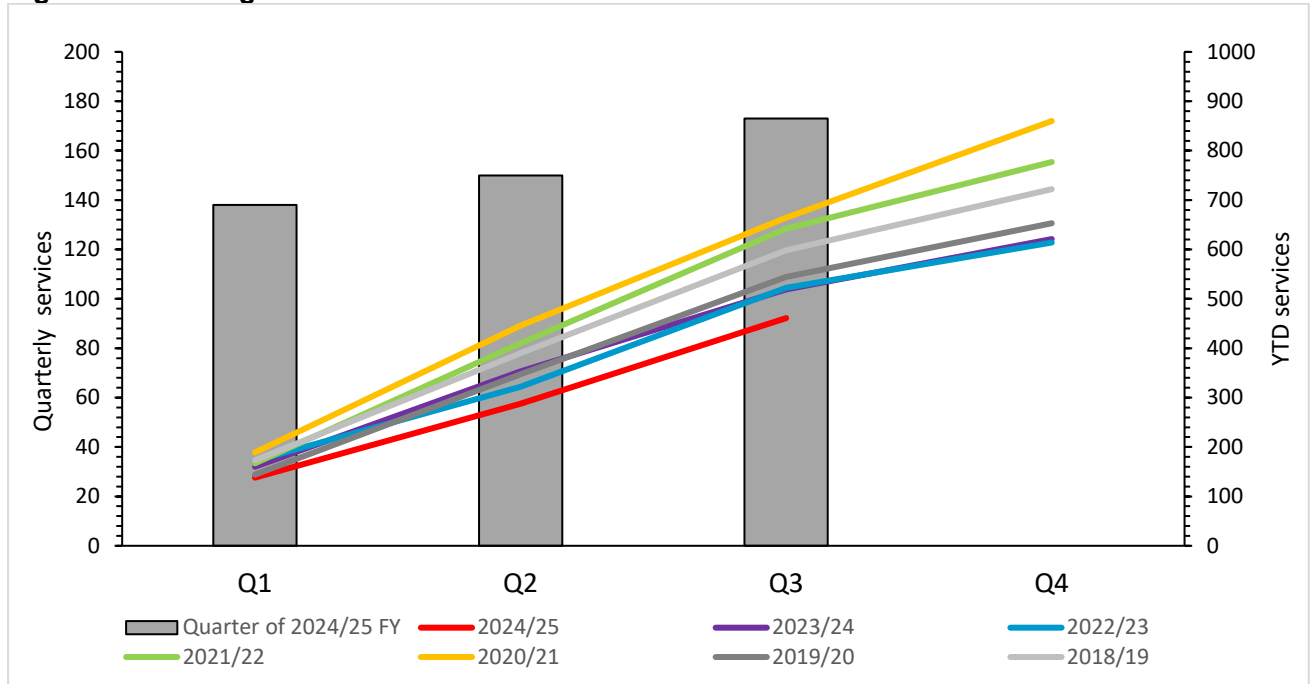
**Figure 1: Registered greyhound population**



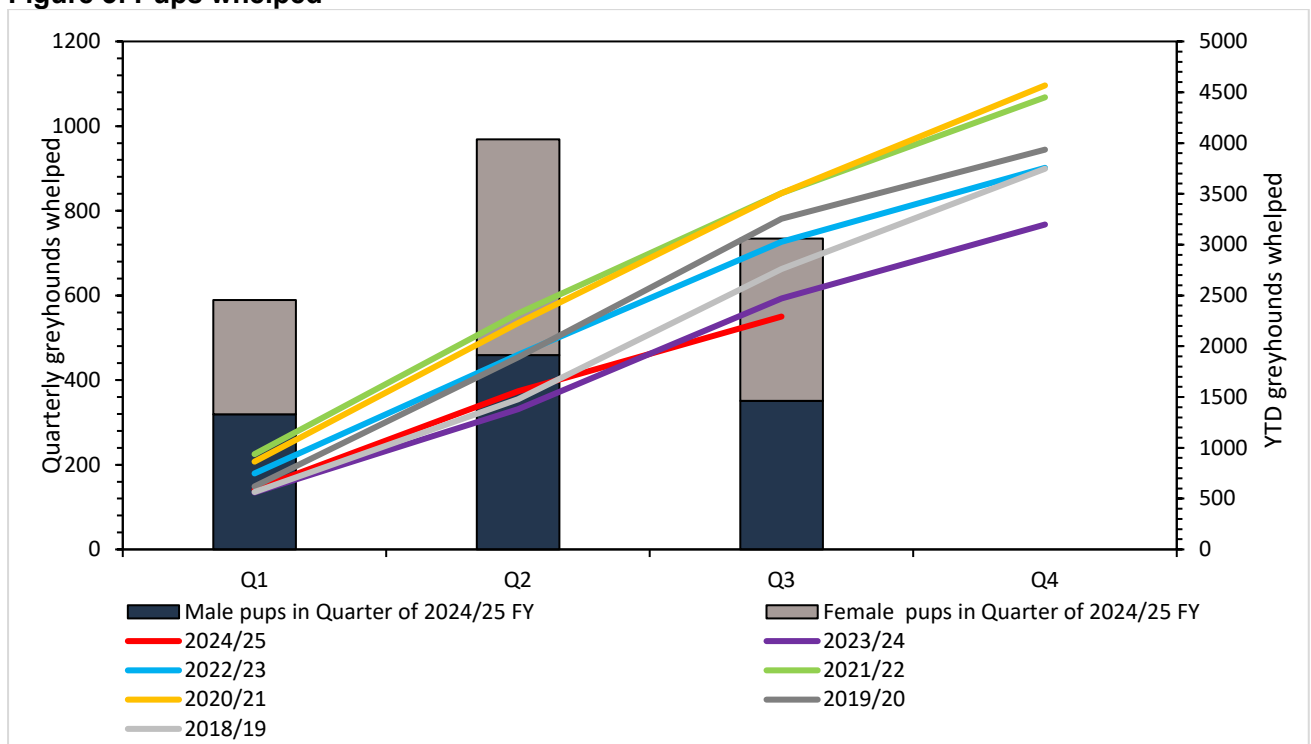
## Breeding

The Commission received notifications for 173 breeding services that occurred in the January-March 2025 quarter, bringing the year-to-date total to 461 (Figure 2). Notifications were received for 734 pups whelped from 103 litters, bringing the year-to-date total to 2292 (Figure 3), These are the lowest year-to date totals for both services and pups whelped in the past 7 years.

**Figure 2: Breeding services**



**Figure 3: Pups whelped**



## Retirements

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

Many greyhounds are retired first to an industry participant and later moved to the custody of a non-participant or a rehoming organisation. In these cases, the most recent destination is counted here.

**Table 1: Greyhound retirements reported by participants this quarter.**

Destination	Number	%
Retained by an industry participant	452	46%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	138	14%
Accepted by a Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) facility <sup>1</sup>	325	33%
Accepted by another animal adoption agency <sup>2</sup>	60	6%
Other	2	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>977</b>	

<sup>1</sup> A not-for-profit initiative coordinated by Greyhound Racing NSW. Note that this figure does not include greyhounds assisted through other GAP rehoming schemes.

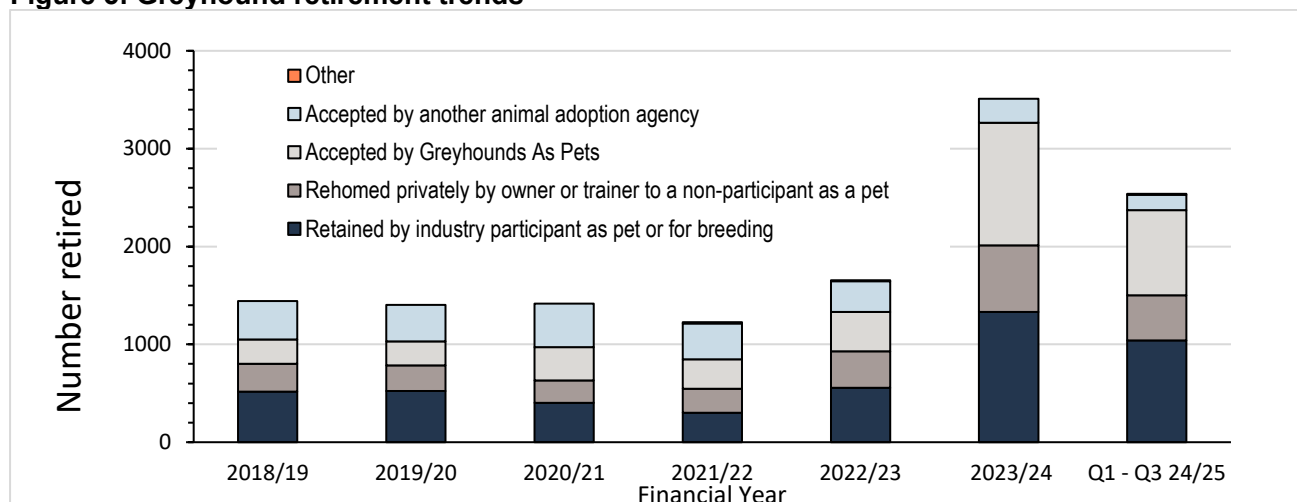
<sup>2</sup> Including the RSPCA, AWL, or council animal care facilities.

In the third quarter of 2024/25, 977 greyhound retirement notifications were received (Table 2, Figure 5).

**Table 2: Greyhound retirement trends**

Destination	FY 18/19		FY 19/20		FY 20/21		FY 21/22		FY 21/22		FY 23/24		Q1-Q3 FY 24/25	
Retained by an industry participant	517	36%	524	37%	403	28%	302	25%	557	34%	1,332	38%	1039	41%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	285	20%	262	19%	229	16%	245	20%	371	22%	679	19%	462	18%
Accepted by a Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) facility	249	17%	246	17%	339	24%	301	25%	404	24%	1,253	36%	871	34%
Accepted by another animal adoption agency	390	27%	373	27%	447	32%	365	30%	314	19%	243	7%	156	6%
Other							14	1%	8	<1%	2	<1%	9	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,441</b>		<b>1,405</b>		<b>1,418</b>		<b>1,227</b>		<b>1,654</b>		<b>3,509</b>		<b>2,537</b>	

**Figure 5: Greyhound retirement trends**



The high number of retirements in the first three quarters of 2024/25 suggests that the number of retirements in the full financial year may be close to the 2023/24 year, which saw a doubling in retirement numbers compared to previous years

The increase in retirements can be attributed to:

- the requirement for eTrac check-ins, which provides an incentive for owners to notify the Commission when a greyhound is no longer racing. (Retired greyhounds owned by an industry participant must be checked in every 12 months, whereas racing greyhounds must be checked in every 6 months.) Commission staff have also made extensive efforts to contact owners of older greyhounds unlikely to race again, encouraging them to submit retirement notifications.
- a larger number of rehoming places offered by Greyhounds as Pets.

## Mortalities

Mortalities include both the euthanasia of greyhounds, and greyhound deaths not brought about by veterinary action.

### 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 <sup>1</sup> due to		
Injury*	60	39%
illness	81	53%
Medical euthanasia due to emergency <sup>2</sup>	0	0%
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury*	4	3%
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming or a known risk to people <sup>3</sup>	7	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</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.

\* Note these figures include greyhounds also counted in the *Analysis of greyhound racing injuries* for this quarter.

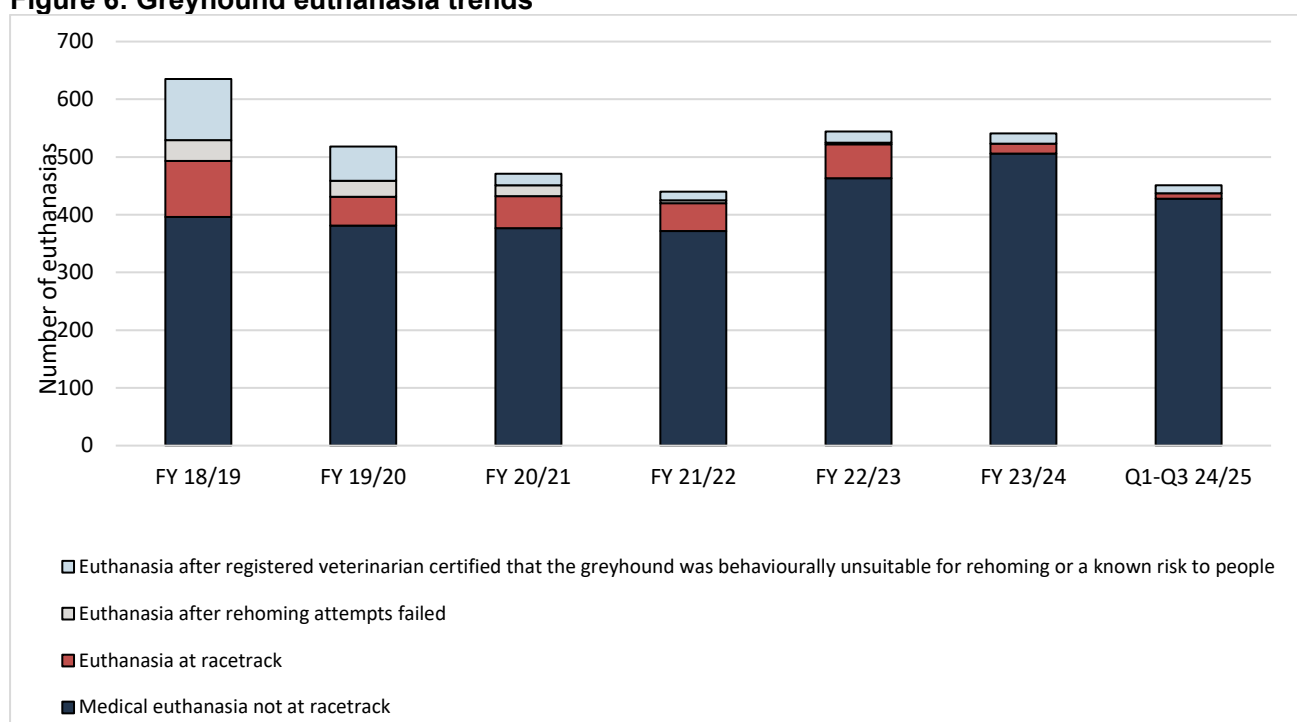
\*

This quarter, the Commission received 152 euthanasia notifications, similar to the previous two quarters (150 and 148).

**Table 4: Greyhound euthanasia trends**

Cause	FY 18/19		FY 19/20		FY 20/21		FY 21/22		FY 22/23		FY 23/24		Q1 - Q3 FY 2024/25	
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack	396	62%	381	74%	377	80%	372	85%	463	85%	506	94%	428	95%
Euthanasia at racetrack	97	15%	50	10%	55	12%	48	11%	59	11%	17	3%	9	2%
Rehoming attempts failed	36	6%	28	5%	19	4%	5	1%	3	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Behaviourally unsuitable <sup>1</sup>	106	17%	59	11%	20	4%	15	3%	19	3%	18	3%	14	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>		<b>518</b>		<b>471</b>		<b>440</b>		<b>544</b>		<b>541</b>		<b>451</b>	

<sup>1</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**

The increase in the proportion of medical euthanasias and decline in the proportion of on-track euthanasias this quarter (Table 3) reflects long-term declines since FY2019 (Table 4 and Figure 6). The decline in on-track euthanasia is likely to be due to improved track conditions, the Commission's introduction of a serious injury treatment policy, and the GRNSW Greyhound Care Scheme.

The number of euthanasias in the first three quarters of 2024/25 suggests that the number of euthanasias may be slightly higher for the full financial year compared to the last six years. This may be a result of the greyhound breeding peaks seen in 2012/13 - 2014/15; greyhounds whelped in those years are reaching the end of their natural lifespan and are more prone to illnesses associated with old age.

The percentage of greyhounds euthanased due to behavioral issues remains small (3%), and significantly lower than the 17% in seen in FY2019 (Table 4).

## Deaths

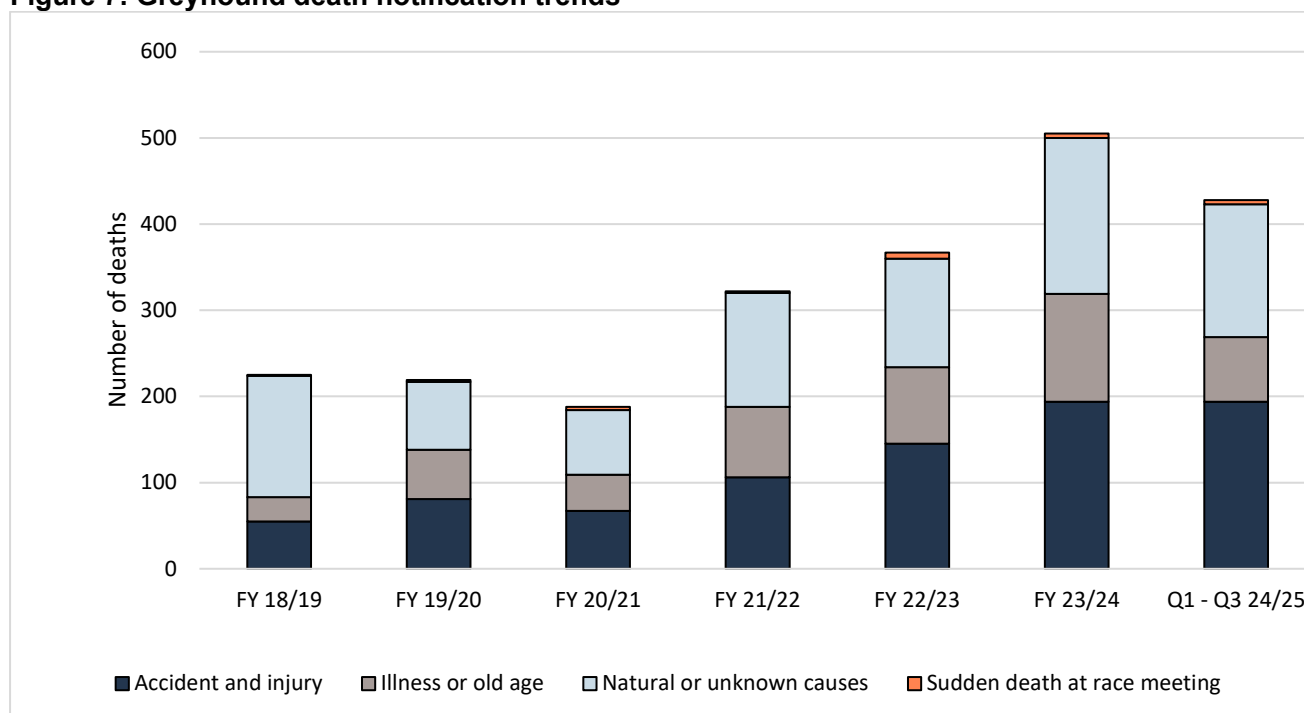
**Table 5: Greyhound deaths reported by participants this quarter.**

Cause	Number	%
Deceased due to accident and/or injury	73	50%
Deceased due to illness	23	16%
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	50	34%
Sudden death at race meeting	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	

**Table 6: Greyhound death notification trends**

Cause	FY 18/19		FY 19/20		FY 20/21		FY 21/22		FY 22/23		FY 23/24		Q1 Q3 FY 2024/25	
Accident and injury	55	24%	81	37%	67	36%	106	33%	145	40%	194	38%	194	45%
Illness or old age	28	12%	57	26%	42	22%	82	25%	89	24%	125	25%	75	18%
Natural or unknown causes	141	63%	79	36%	75	40%	132	41%	126	34%	181	36%	154	36%
Sudden death at race meeting	1	<1%	2	<1%	4	2%	2	<1%	7	2%	5	<1%	5	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>		<b>219</b>		<b>188</b>		<b>322</b>		<b>367</b>		<b>505</b>		<b>428</b>	

**Figure 7: Greyhound death notification trends**



A total of 147 greyhounds died this quarter (Table 6). The number of deaths in the first three quarters of 2024/25 suggests that the number of deaths may be higher for the full financial year compared to the last six years (Figure 7).

This steady growth since FY2021 can be attributed to improved participant compliance with death notification requirements, and historically high whelping rates which have resulted in an older greyhound population, increasing the likelihood of deaths from illness and natural causes.