

Analysis of greyhound racing injuries

1 April – 30 June 2025



Foreword

The NSW Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has published data since 2018 about injuries sustained by greyhounds while racing in NSW.

Reports are published:

- Quarterly, providing timely updates
- Annually, providing analysis of long-term trends

Together, these reports contribute to a growing body of evidence which can assist the industry in making evidence-based decisions with the aim of reducing the incidence and severity of greyhound racing injuries.

In keeping with this, in February 2023, the Commission convened a Summit comprising all key greyhound racing industry stakeholders to develop strategies for reducing serious racing injuries.

As a result of the Summit, the NSW Greyhound racing industry has committed itself to piloting a range of race injury reduction strategies. Those strategies and the timeframes for implementation are set out within the industry's Race Injury Reduction Action Plan which can be found at:

<https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/welfare/race-injury-reduction-action-plan>. The Commission will publish the statistical results of the pilots conducted.

Injury reporting is guided by the Standards for Reporting Greyhound Racing Injuries.

<https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/Standards-for-reporting-greyhound-racing-injuries-Revised-April-2022-.pdf>

Figures for 2024/25 reported here may differ from those that appear in the GWIC 2024/25 Annual Report (published late 2025) due to late notifications from participants and further data audit. Values for earlier financial years have been reconciled with annual reports for greater accuracy.

Key comments

- Injury rates in all categories were lower than in the January-March 2025 quarter, and most were lower than or similar to the same autumn quarter in 2024.
- Serious injuries (Category F, which are career ending and may result in euthanasia or death) were at their lowest for the 2024/25 financial year.
- Category E injuries (which result in death or euthanasia at the track) remain low, as they have been since mid-2023.
- Category D and F injuries have declined in the last 18 months but increased in the long term, since 2018, and remain the focus of concern and a key metric of track welfare.
- Eleven mortalities off track in the reporting period were related to a serious Category D track injury. All injuries and mortalities were sustained in the reporting period and 10 of those mortalities occurred within 7 days of the injury. All were eligible for veterinary treatment under the Greyhound Care Scheme.

Key data

Injuries sustained in races

Table 1: Injuries in races this quarter					
REPORTING PERIOD		1 April – 30 June 2025			
Race meetings				315	
Races				3,533	
Starts (times a greyhound has started a race)				25,807	
Individual greyhounds raced				4,391	
Average starts per greyhound				5.9	
Injury category	Incapacitation period (days)	Number of injuries	% injured per injury category	Cumulative total of injury category	Injuries per 1,000 starts
Category A	none	126	12.9%	12.9%	4.9
Category B	1-10	354	36.3%	49.2%	13.7
Category C	11 - 27	254	26.1%	75.3%	9.8
Category D	28 - 90	237	24.3%	99.6%	9.2
Category E	Euthanased/died	4	0.4%	100.0%	0.2
Total		975			37.8
Category F	*	67			2.6
Category G	+	908			35.2

* Category F includes all Category E incidents as well as those within Category D that are deemed to be of a particularly serious nature. Please refer to [Standards for reporting greyhound racing injuries](#) further information.

+ Category G Includes any injury in Categories A to C and those in Category D that do not fit the definition of a serious injury (i.e. Category F).

Related mortalities

The Commission's veterinarians follow up with trainers about the outcomes for greyhounds which have suffered a serious Category D race injury. Instances of euthanasia by a private veterinarian or sudden death away from the race track which are related to a serious injury at a race track are counted in Table 2.

Table 2: Track related mortality not as part of a race meeting	
Reporting Period	1 April – 30 June 2025 ²
Reported euthanased by private veterinarian or died off-track as a result of injury at race meeting ¹	11
Reported euthanased or sudden death after sustaining injury in unofficial trial at race track	0
Reported euthanased or sudden death after sustaining injury in official trial at race track ²	0

¹ Evidence from treating veterinarians and euthanasia notifications submitted by participants has been reviewed, and the classification of these mortalities confirmed, by the Commission's Chief Veterinary Officer. These mortalities occurred in the reporting period but the injury may have occurred earlier.

² Unofficial trials (club trials) are not monitored by the Commission and injuries are only recorded in rare circumstances where a Commission veterinarian may be present.

Trends

Controlled for seasonal variation.

Injury rates are correlated with season, with hotter quarters 1 and 4 in each year usually having higher injury rates than cooler quarters 2 and 3. Comparing this quarter with the same quarter in previous years reduces the influence of season and provides a more accurate picture of long-term trends in injury rates.

Figure 1: Injury trends for same seasonal quarter - Categories A to E and total

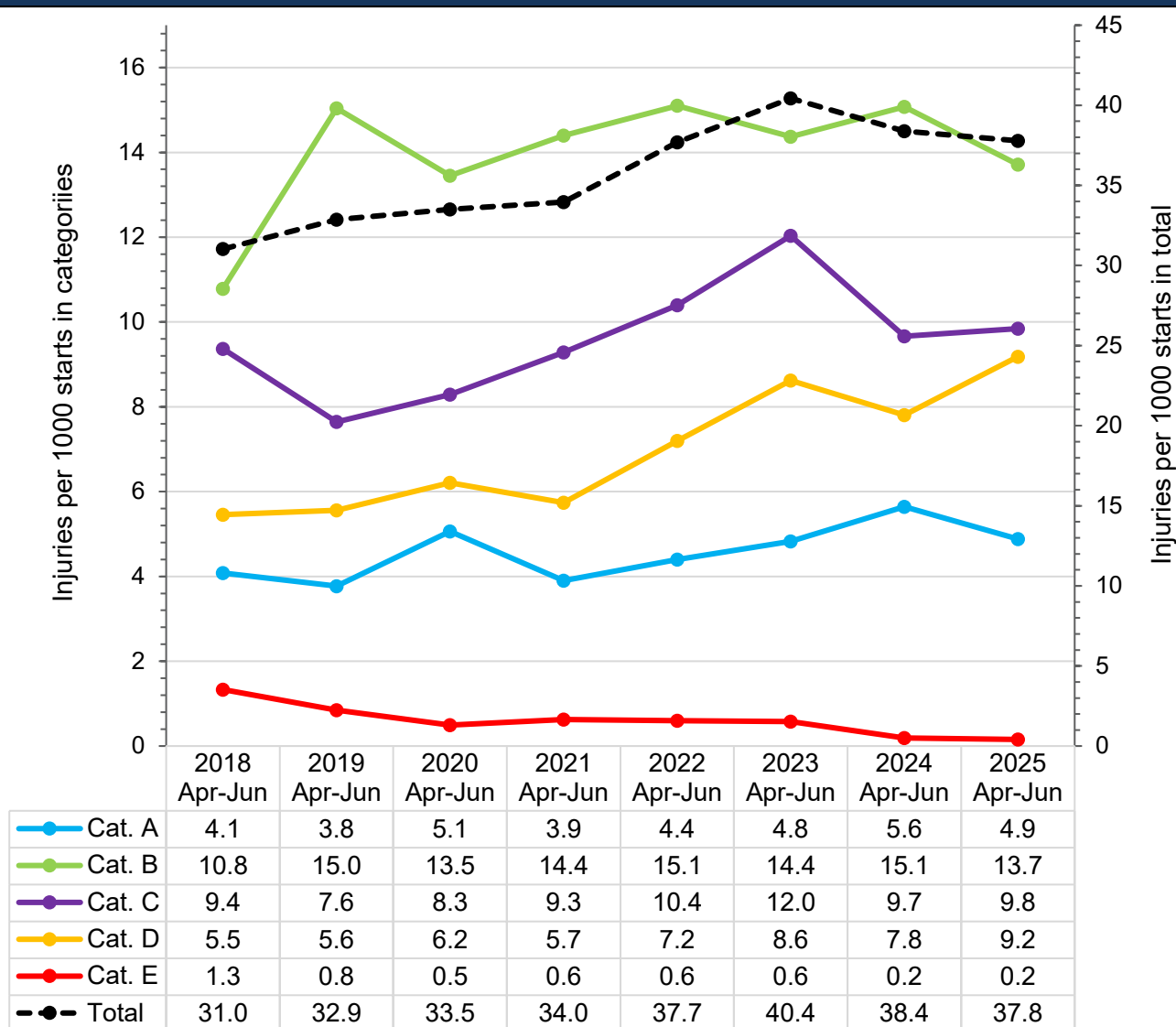


Figure 2: Injury trends for same seasonal quarter – Categories F and G

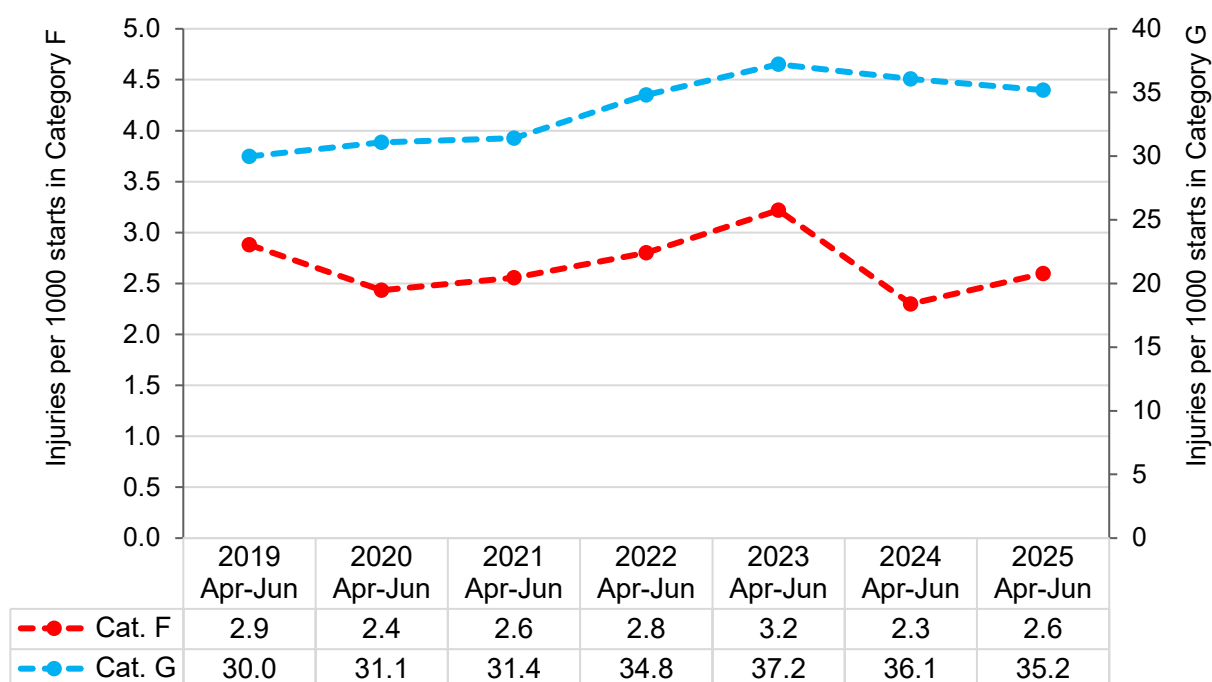


Table 3: This quarter compared to the same quarter in previous years

Injury type	This quarter compared to same quarter in previous years
Category A	13% lower than the autumn quarter last year and similar to the autumn average for previous 5 years (4.8)
Category B	9% lower than the autumn quarter last year and below the autumn average for previous 5 years (14.5)
Category C	Similar to the autumn quarter last year and the autumn average for previous 5 years (9.9)
Category D	18% higher than the autumn quarter last year and higher than the autumn average for previous 5 years (7.1)
Category E	Similar to the autumn quarter last year and much lower than the autumn average for previous 5 years (0.5)
Total	Similar to the autumn quarter last year and the autumn average for previous 5 years (36.8)
Category F	13% higher than the autumn quarter last year and similar to the autumn average for previous 5 years (2.7)
Category G	Similar to the autumn quarter last year and the autumn average for previous 5 years (34.1)
Comment The higher rate of Category D injuries (with flow on to a higher rate of Category F injuries) in this quarter may be normal variation within the stability of the last 12 months, but will be examined in more detail for possible contributory factors.	

Long-term trends

Long-term injury trends are presented as 12-month running averages (Figures 3 and 4).

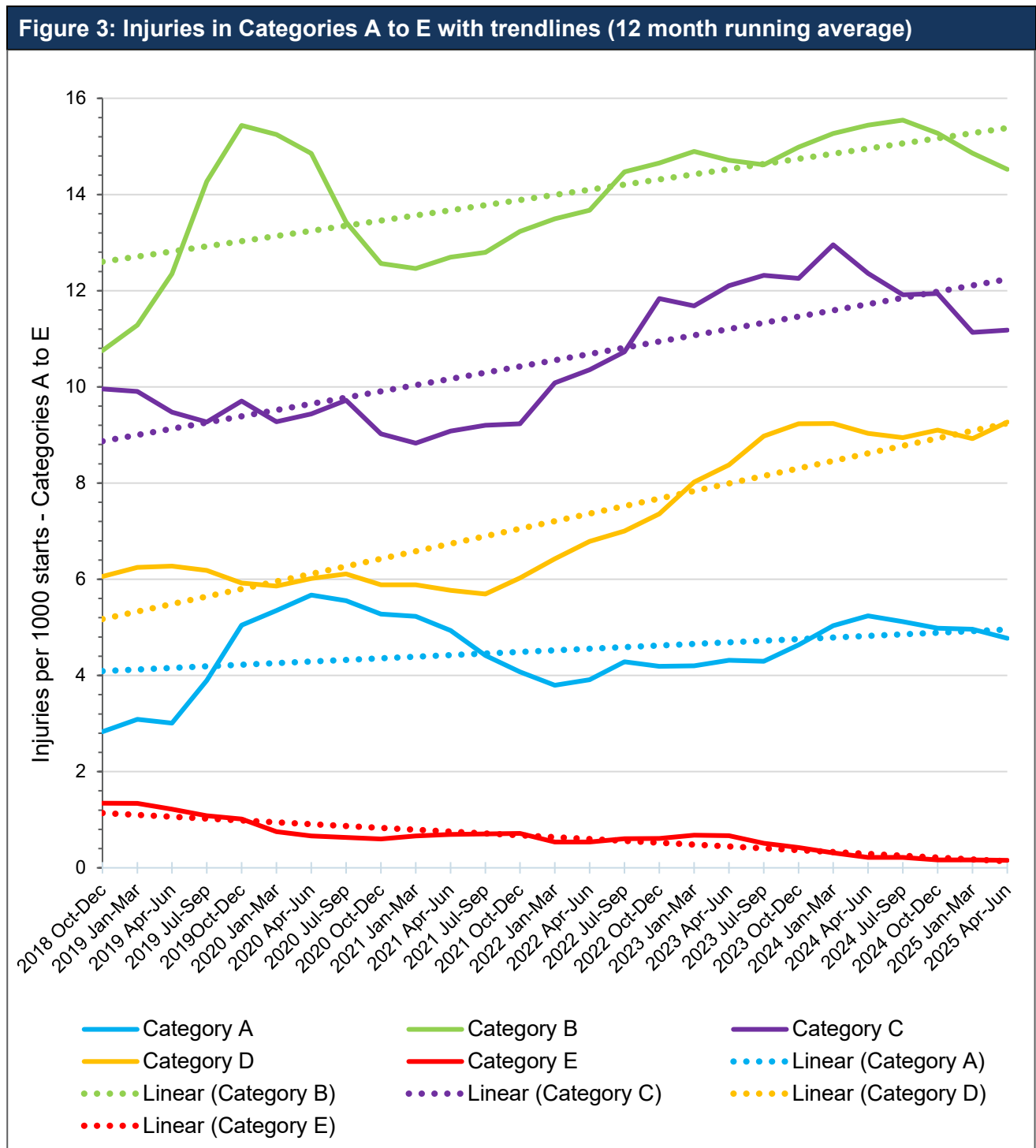


Figure 4: Injuries in Categories F, G and total with trendlines (12 month running average)

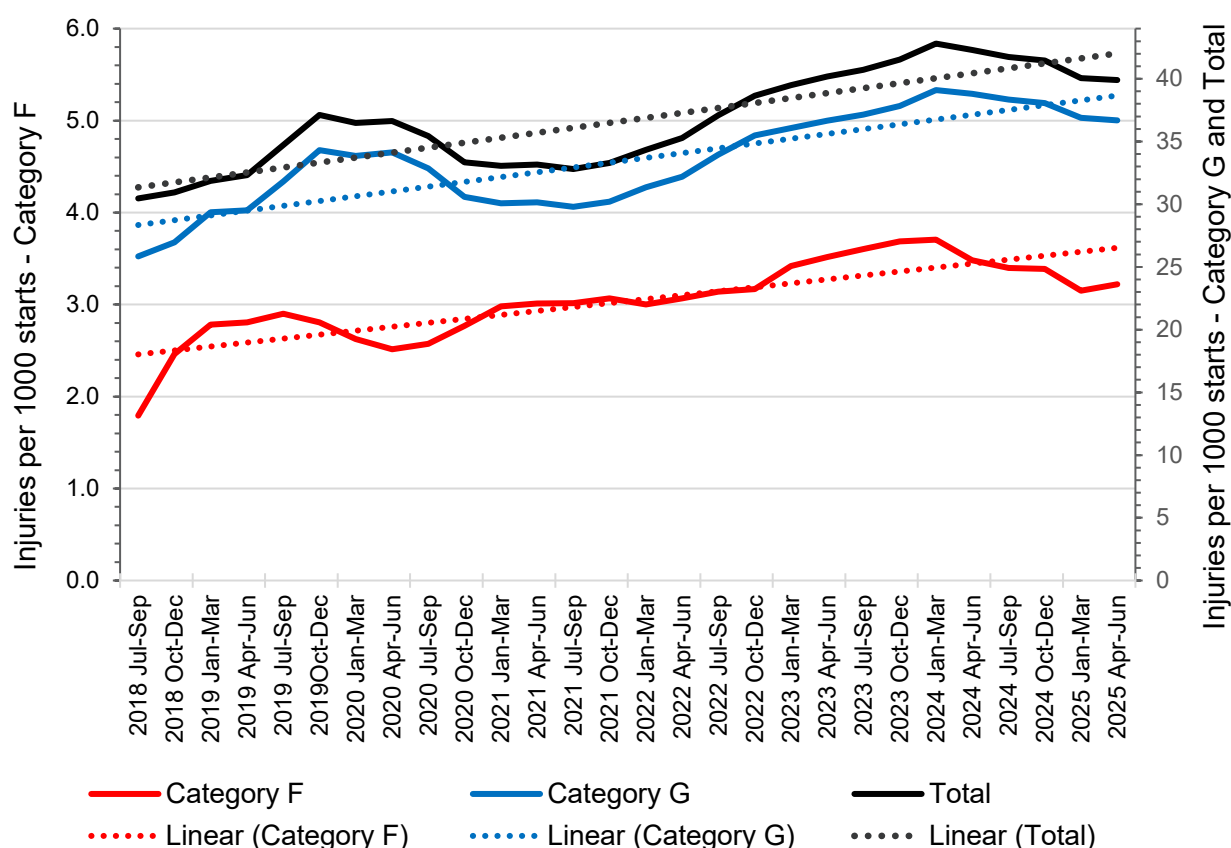


Table 4: This quarter relative to long term trends (12 months running average)

Category A	Consistent with the stability seen in the last 18 months.
Category B	Consistent with the gradual decline seen in the last 12 months.
Category C	Similar to the previous quarter and in general decline over the last 18 months.
Category D	Increase this quarter but may be consistent with normal variation in stability seen in the last 18 months.
Category E	Consistent with the steady and low rate since early 2024.
Total	Consistent with the decline seen in the last 18 months.
Category F	Small increase after 12 months of decline.
Category G	Consistent with the decline seen in the last 18 months.

Comment

The 12-month running average of Category F injuries may have been pushed upward this quarter by injuries in October – December 2024, where Category D injuries increased by 17% and a higher proportion (41%) of Category D injuries qualified as Category F (the average over 3½ years is 34%). All other 12-month trends in injury categories are consistent with stable or declining trends of decline or stability.

Race Injury Review Panel Analysis

There are many causes of injuries in racing greyhounds and the relative importance and interactions of causative factors vary. Causative factors can be divided into:

1. **Greyhound factors:** genetics, nutrition, physical growth and development, fitness, race preparation, racing form and previous injury history.
2. **Track factors:** design and surface characteristics; environmental influences.
3. **Race factors:** race distance, racing incidents (collisions) and number of greyhounds in a race.

Category F injuries which occurred during this quarter were reviewed by the Race Injury Review Panel, continuing work begun in February 2019. The Panel assesses factors that may have contributed to each injury and where possible attributes it to greyhound, track, or race factors. Over time, the data collected will assist in informing prevention strategies and regulatory steps aimed at minimising the incidence of racing injuries.

Table 5 summarises the results of Panel data for this quarter. In some instances, more than one factor may contribute to an injury, such as track and race factors. Where insufficient evidence is available (such as in trials or races where no video footage is available), the possible contributions to the injury are not considered by the Panel, but those greyhounds may be included in counts of the gender, age, distance, location, and race history of injured greyhounds.

Table 5: Review of Category E and F injuries this quarter			
	Category E	Category F minus Category E	Category F
Race Injury Review Panel assessment of contributing factors to injuries			
Greyhound factors		21	21
Race factors	4	28	32
Track factors			
Factors not assessed/unknown		14	14
Gender of injured greyhound			
Female	1	36	37
Male	3	37	40
Age of injured greyhound to nearest 6 months			
1.5 years		4	4
2 years		5	5
2.5 years	1	15	16
3 years	1	17	18
3.5 years	1	10	11
4 years		9	9
4.5 years	1	1	2
> 5 years		2	2
Distance of race in which greyhound was injured			
Under 300m		3	3
300-399m	4	37	41
400-499m		15	15
500-600m		7	7
Over 600m		1	1
Location on track at which injury appears to have occurred			
Soon after start		4	4
Straight		12	12
Turn	3	35	38
After finish but before catching pen		4	4
Catching pen	1	2	3
Other or unknown		6	6
Race history of injured greyhounds			
Average and range of starts in last 30 days	1.5 (0-4)	2.1 (0-5)	2.2 (0-5)
Average and range of starts in last 60 days	5 (2-9)	4.7 (0-12)	4.7 (0-12)
Average and range of career starts	31.4 (9-63)	36.4 (2-116)	36.1 (2-116)