



Greyhound Retirement and End of Life Report

1 October – 31 December 2019

Foreword

Each quarter the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the Commission) publishes a report providing data in relation to retirements, euthanasia and deaths of greyhounds registered with the Commission in NSW. The publication of such data is designed to provide transparent, accurate and timely reporting of these events.

This report contains data relating to the second quarter of 2019/20, being the period 1 October to 31 December 2019. As this is only the second edition of this report trend line analysis is limited.

The Commission will continue to evolve the structure and content of the report to enhance its utility.

Data Sources

The statistics contained in this report for greyhound retirements and deaths relate to notifications received by the Commission from registered participants in the relevant reporting period, in accordance with relevant Commission policies, including the Commission's Rehoming Policy.

Statistics relating to euthanasia that occurs at racetracks are based on data recorded by the Commission's On-Track Veterinarians. All other euthanasia statistics relate to notifications received from participants, including where applicable, certifications from the veterinarian who performed the euthanasia.

Retirements Reported during the Quarter

Retired greyhounds no longer race and usually become pets or are retained in the greyhound racing industry for breeding. The Commission was notified of 272 greyhound retirements that occurred between 1 October – 31 December 2019 (see Table 1).

Of the notifications received, 44.9% (122) of retired greyhounds were retained by their registered owner or trainer as a pet, and these dogs stay registered with the Commission. A further 20.6% (56) of retired greyhounds were notified as being rehomed privately by their owner or trainer to someone outside the greyhound racing industry.

The remaining greyhounds were rehomed to pet rescue or rehoming organisations. The largest single rehoming program is the Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program managed by GRNSW, and the Commission was notified of 18 (6.6%) retirements to GAP. Notifications showed that other animal rescue and adoption agencies accepted 76 (27.9%) greyhounds into their facilities.

There were no greyhounds retired for export during this quarter.

GREYHOUND RETIREMENT AND END OF LIFE REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019

Table 1: Greyhound retirements reported to the Commission 1 October – 31 December 2019

Destination	Number	%
Retained by owner or trainer	122	44.9%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer ¹	56	20.6%
Accepted by Greyhounds As Pets (GAP)	18	6.6%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency ²	76	27.9%
Retired for export	0	0%
Total	272	

Euthanasia Reported during the Quarter

On 1 December 2019 the Commission updated its Rehoming Policy³ to require greyhounds that could previously be euthanased following certification by a veterinarian as being unsuitable for rehoming, to be subject to rehoming requirements. This category is captured in this report for greyhounds euthanased on behavioural grounds between 1 October and 30 November 2019.

A total of 150 greyhounds were reported as euthanased 1 October – 31 December 2019. One hundred and one (67.3%) of these were performed by private veterinarians for medical reasons such as injury or illness. There were no reported cases of emergency euthanasia by a person other than a veterinarian. The injuries most commonly reported by veterinarians were severe bone fractures.

A wide variety of illnesses precipitated euthanasia of greyhounds, including cancers, gastric dilation and volvulus (GDV), arthritis and various co-morbidities associated with age.

Sixteen greyhounds (10.7%) were euthanased by Commission veterinarians due to a catastrophic injury that occurred as a result of racing.

¹ Rehomed to a member of the public as a pet.

² Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency includes pet rescue organisations, the RSPCA, the Animal Welfare League and Council animal holding facilities.

³ The Rehoming Policy can be found at <https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/integrity/rulesandpolicies/re-homing-policy>.

GREYHOUND RETIREMENT AND END OF LIFE REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019

Table 2: Greyhound euthanasia reported to the Commission 1 October – 31 December 2019

Cause	Number	%
Medical euthanasia (not at racetrack) due to injury, illness, or an emergency	101	67.3%
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming ⁴	28	18.7%
Euthanasia at racetrack due to injury	16	10.7%
Euthanasia after rehoming attempts failed	5	3.3%
Total	150	

Deaths Reported during the Quarter

During the reporting period a total of 47 greyhound deaths were notified to the Commission. Twenty four (51.1%) deaths were reported as being due to accidental injury (including paddock injuries, snake bite, fights, motor vehicle accidents). A further 14 (19.1%) died from illness or old age (including stomach torsions, twisted bowel, cardiac failure) and a further 9 where the cause of death was unknown or natural.

Table 3: Greyhound deaths reported to the Commission October - December 2019

Cause	Number	%
Deceased due to accidental causes/ injury	24	51.1%
Deceased due to illness and old age	14	29.8%
Deceased due to natural/ unknown causes	9	19.1%
Sudden death at track	0	0%
Total	47	

⁴ From 1 December 2019 any greyhound that has not otherwise been rehomed privately must be subject to multiple attempts to rehome the greyhound.

Trend Line Analysis

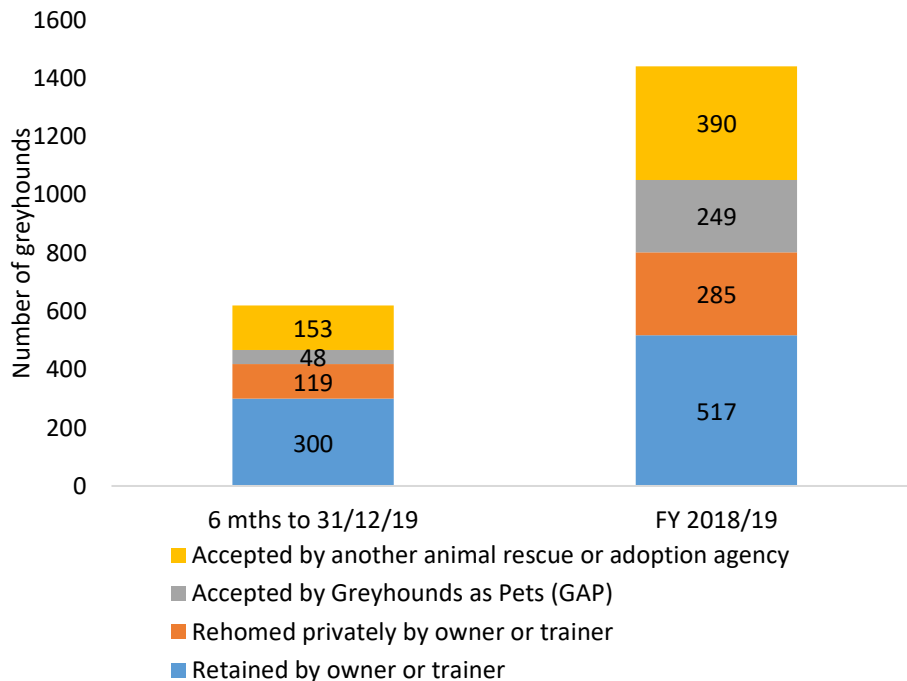
Preamble

As this is only the second edition of this particular report, trend line analysis is limited to comparing the current year to date statistics, reflecting the period 1 July – 31 December 2019, with the full prior year (being 1 July 2018-30 June 2019).

For the three categories of retirements, euthanasia and deaths that are the subject of this report, a table containing quarterly data for the financial year, a year to date total and the full prior year data is shown. This information is also represented graphically.

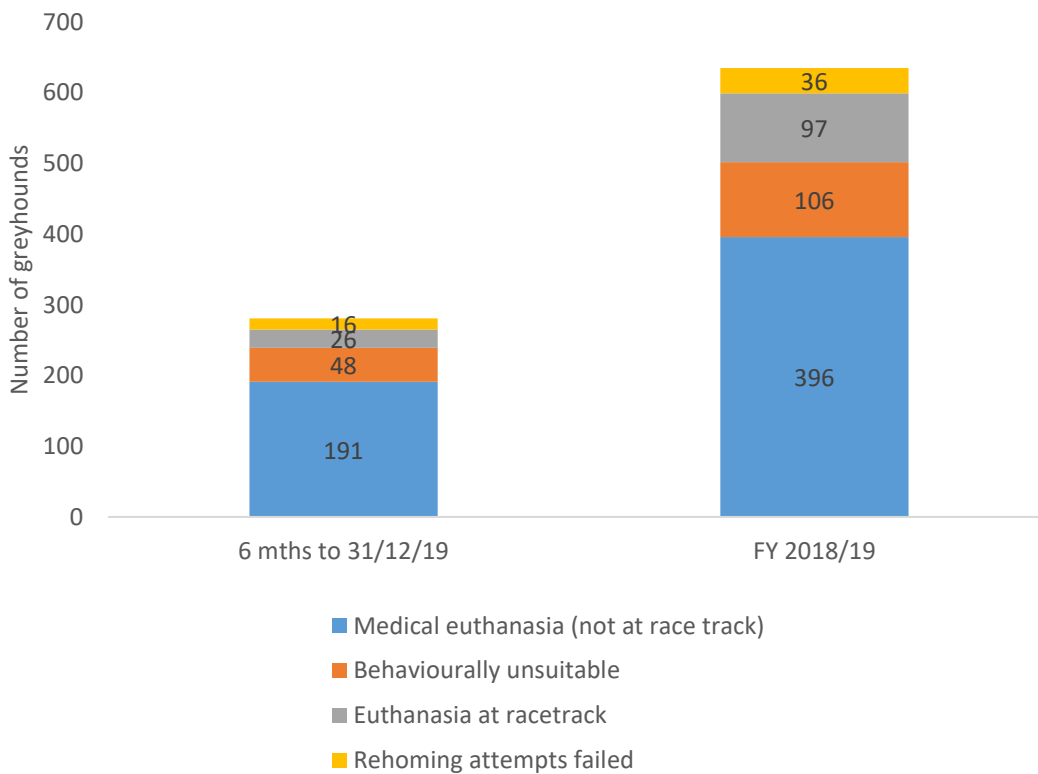
Greyhound Retirement Trends

Destination	Q1	Q2	6 mths to 31/12/19	FY 2018/19
Retained by owner or trainer	178	122	300	517
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer	63	56	119	285
Accepted by Greyhounds as Pets (GAP)	30	18	48	249
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency	77	76	153	390
Total	348	272	620	1441



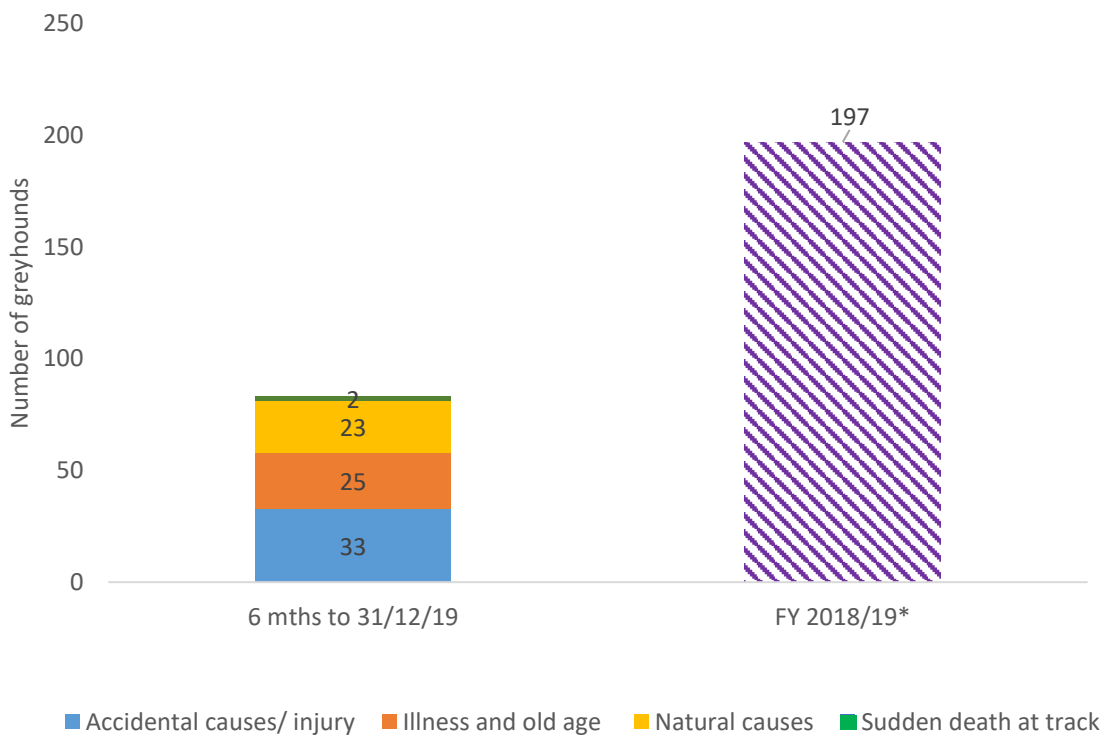
Greyhound Euthanasia Trends

Cause	Q1	Q2	6 mths to 31/12/19	FY 2018/19
Medical euthanasia (not at race track)	90	101	191	396
Euthanasia at racetrack	10	16	26	97
Behaviourally unsuitable	20	28	48	106
Rehoming attempts failed	11	5	16	36
Total	131	150	281	635



Greyhound Death Trends

Cause	Q1	Q2	6 mths to 31/12/19	FY 2018/19*
Accidental causes/ injury	9	24	33	
Illness and old age	11	14	25	
Natural causes	14	9	23	
Sudden death at track	2	0	2	
Total	36	47	83	197



* Full year 2018/19 categorisation of data by cause is unavailable.