

Analysis of greyhound racing injuries

1 April – 30 June 2022



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.

The Commission has adopted a nationally agreed convention for classifying injuries and will use this for reporting injury numbers from this report onwards.

The new standard for documenting greyhound racing injuries in reports produced by the Commission can be found [here](#).

Key comments

- In this report, long-term injury rates are presented as 12-month running averages as a means of controlling for the seasonal variation inherent in injury data. This gives a clearer picture of long-term trends in injury.
- The rate of Category E injury (resulting in sudden death or euthanasia at the race meeting) was comparable this quarter with low rate seen in Quarter 2 since 2019.
- The total rate of injury and injury rates in all other categories were higher than in the same quarter last year
- The rate of Category E injury shows a long-term decline.
- The total rate of injury and injury rates in all other categories show long-term increases.
- As is typical, more than half of Category F injuries (those requiring euthanasia at the track, a stand down period of 43 or more days, or resulting in sudden death) occurred on the turns of tracks.
- Of 67 Category F injuries, 8 occurred soon after the start of the race, 9 occurred on straight stretches of tracks, and four occurred after the finish but before the catching pen.

Key data this quarter

Injuries sustained at race meetings

Table 1: Races and Injuries this quarter						
REPORTING PERIOD 1 April – 30 June 2022				2nd Quarter 2022		
Race meetings				304		
Races				3288		
Starts (times a greyhound has started a race)				24028		
Individual greyhounds raced				4439		
Average starts per greyhound				5.4		
Post-race veterinary examinations				1624		
Injury category	Incapacitation period (days)	Number of injuries	% injured per injury category	Cumulative total per injury category	Injuries per 100 greyhounds raced	Injuries per 1,000 starts
Category A	none	105	11.6%	11.6%	2.4%	4.4
Category B	3-10	363	40.1%	51.7%	8.2%	15.1
Category C	11 - 27	249	27.5%	79.2%	5.6%	10.4
Category D	28 - 90	173	19.1%	98.3%	4.0%	7.2
Category E	Euthanased/died	15	1.7%	100.0%	0.3%	0.6
Total		905			20.4%	37.7
Category F	*	68	7.5%		1.5%	2.8
Category G	+	837	92.5%		18.9%	34.8

* 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 [this link](#) for 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)

Track-related mortality not as part of race meeting

Note that this data depends on OTVs following up on a Category D injury suffered at the track and reports made by participants to the Commission, and therefore may not be complete at the time of reporting. Due to this, and for comparability with previous years of data:

- Instances of euthanasia by a private veterinarian, away from the racetrack, after sustaining injury at a race meeting are counted as Category D injuries in the table above as the greyhound was not euthanased on track.
- Instances of euthanasia or sudden death after sustaining injury in a trial at a racetrack are not included in the table above but included in Table 2 below.
- More information on greyhounds medically euthanased away from the racetrack can be found in the Commission's quarterly 'Greyhound Life Cycle Report', which is available on the Commission's [website](#).

Table 2: Track related mortality not as part of race meeting

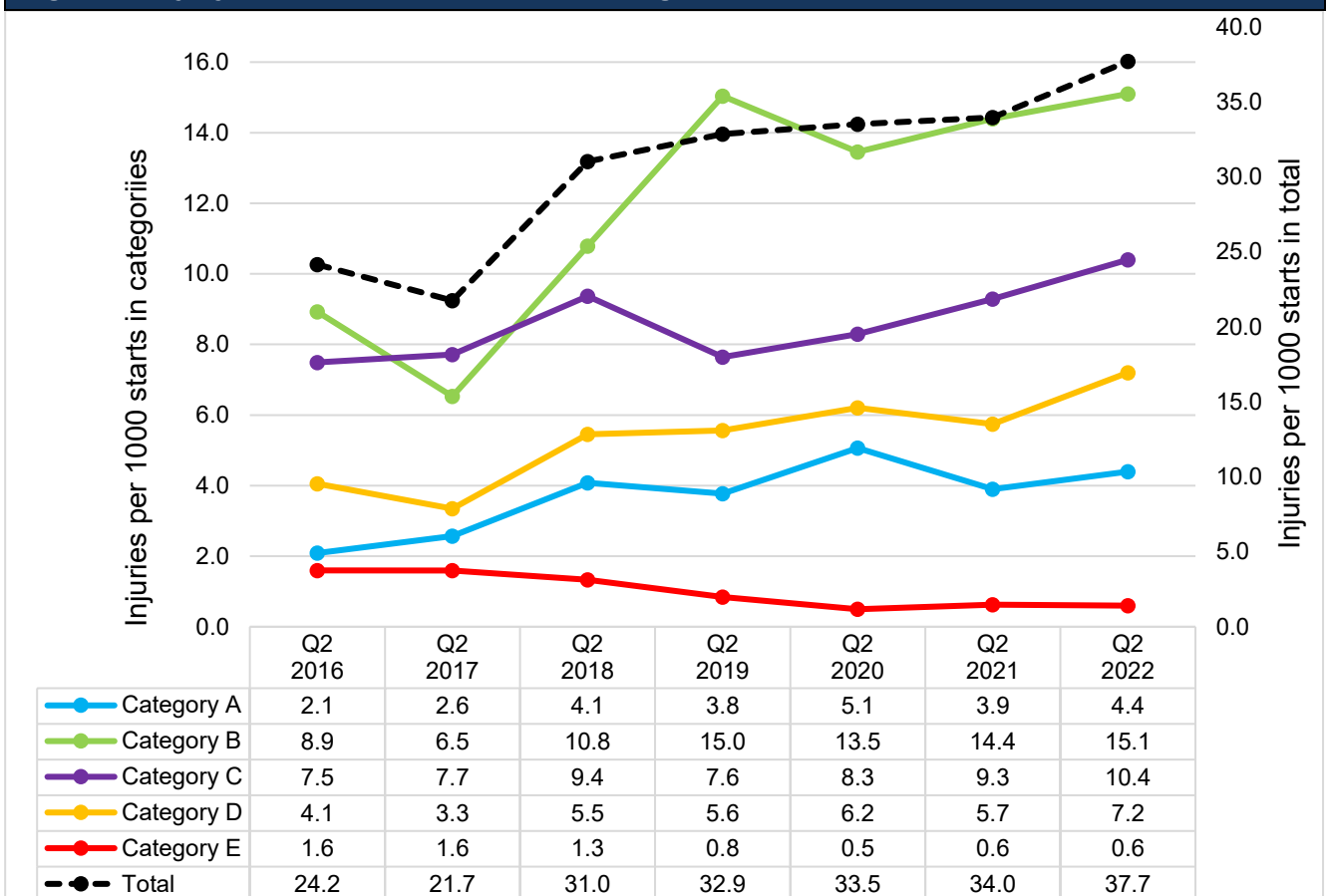
Reporting Period	1 April – 30 June 2022	Q2 2022 / 2nd Quarter
Reported euthanased by private veterinarian after sustaining injury at race meeting		4
Reported euthanased or sudden death after sustaining injury in unofficial trial at racetrack		1
Reported euthanased or sudden death after sustaining injury in official trial at racetrack		0

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's data 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 quarter - Categories A to E and total



Note: reporting prior to Q3 2018 was by GRNSW and is not directly comparable due to differences in data definitions and recording.

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

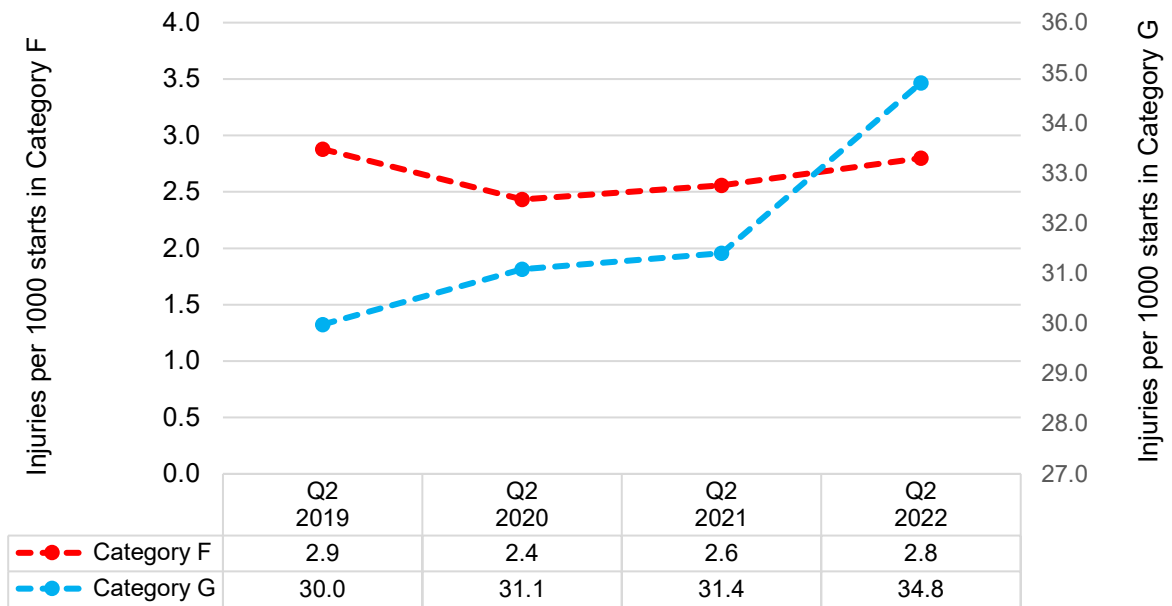


Table 3: This quarter compared to the same quarter in previous years

Injury type	This quarter compared to same quarter in previous years
Category A	The rate of Category A injuries in Quarter 2 has increased gradually since 2016.
Category B	The rate of Category B injuries in Quarter 2 has increased since 2016.
Category C	The rate of Category C injuries in Quarter 2 has increased since 2019.
Category D	The rate of Category D injuries in Quarter 2 has increased this year after a period of stability in 2018-2021.
Category E	The rate of Category E injuries in Quarter 2 remains low compared to 2016-18.
Total	The rate of total injuries in Quarter 2 has risen compared to 2021.
Category F	The rate of Category F injuries in Quarter 2 declined in 2020-2021 but has increased this quarter.
Category G	The rate of Category G injuries in Quarter 2 has increased this quarter.
Comment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of all injury categories in Quarter 2 other than Category E (euthanasia and sudden death) have increased compared to 2021 and increased over the longer term.

Long-term trends

To control for seasonal variation in injury data, long-term injury trends are presented as 12-month running averages.

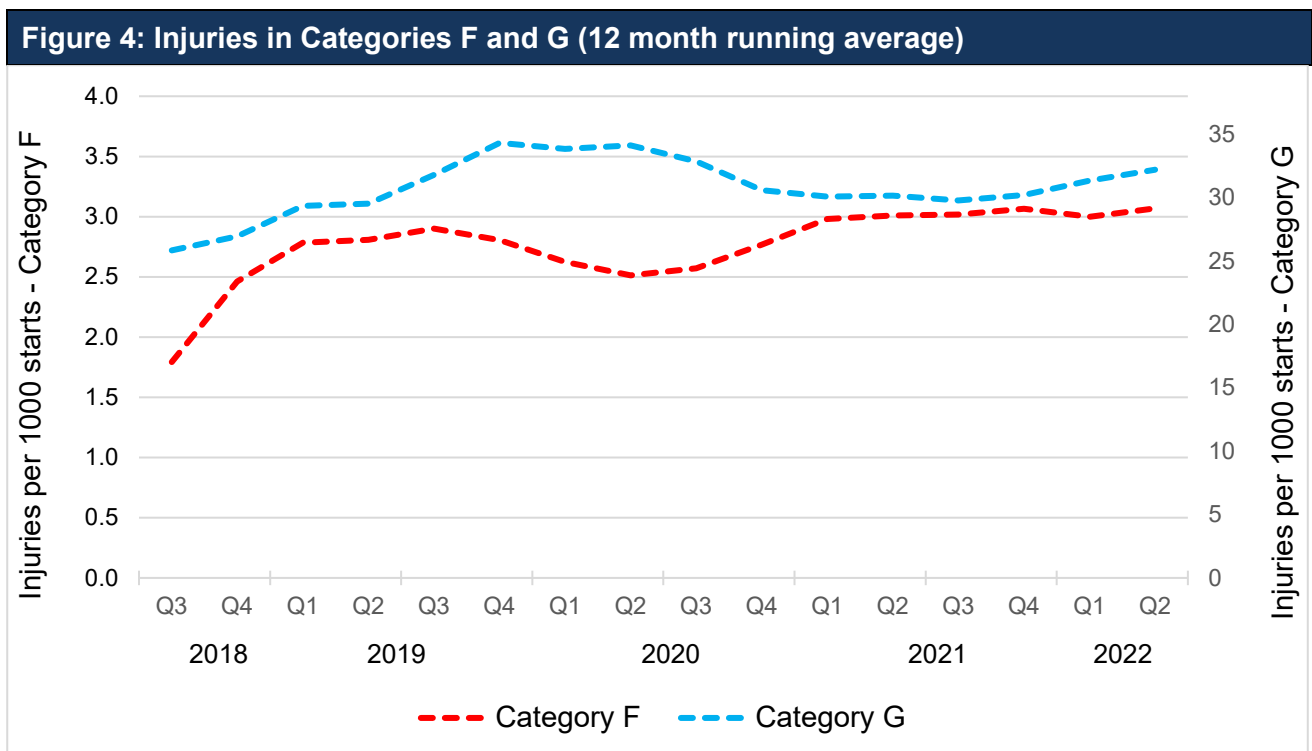
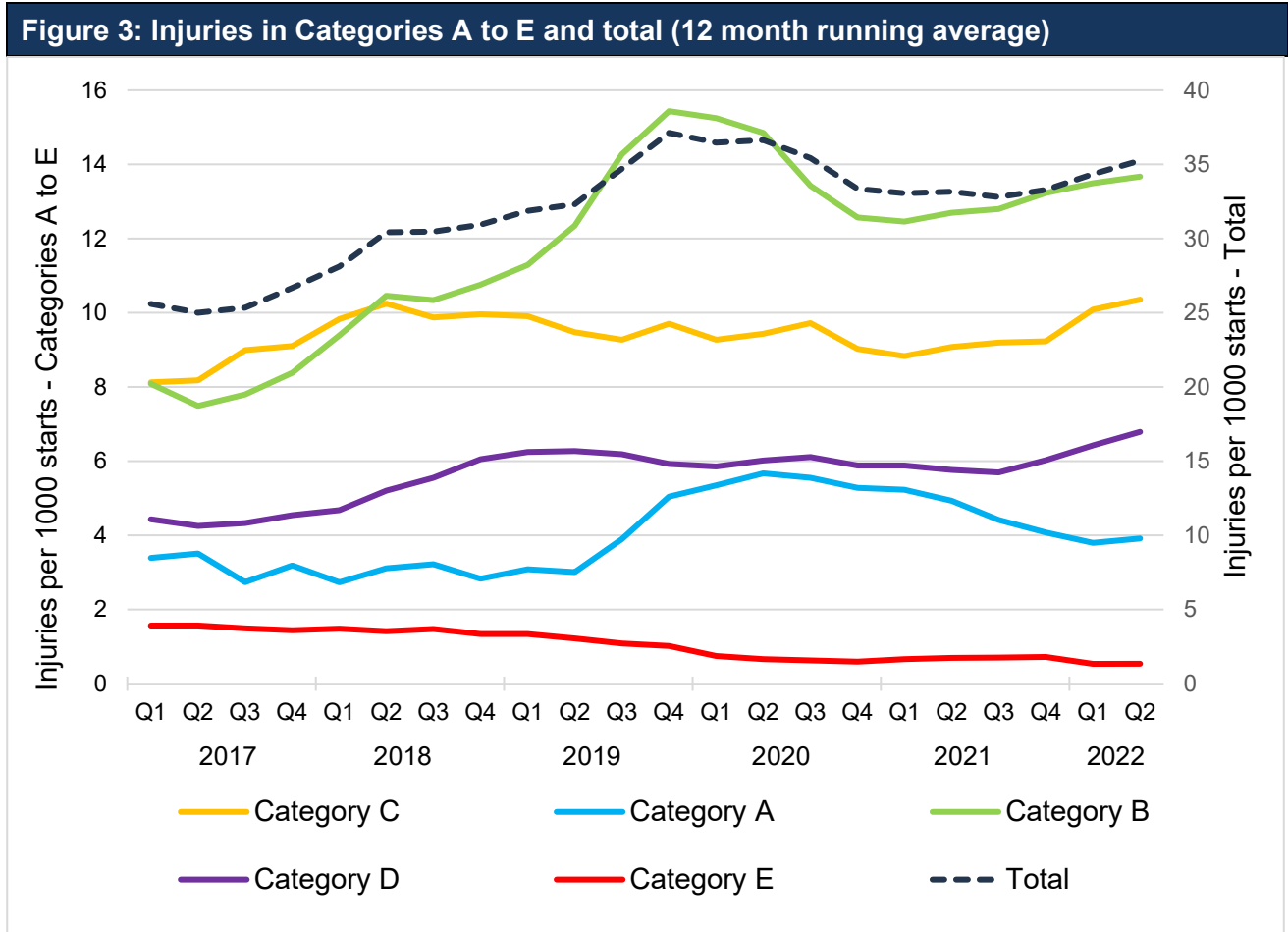


Table 4: Long term trends (12 month running average)	
Category A	The average rate of Category A injuries has declined since Q2 2020 but remains higher than in 2017-18.
Category B	The average rate of Category B injuries has gradually increased in the last 18 months.
Category C	The average rate of Category C injuries has increased in the last 9 months after several years of stability.
Category D	The average rate of Category D injuries has increased slightly recently but has remained relatively stable since 2018.
Category E	The average rate of Category E injuries has declined in the long term.
Total	The average rate of total injuries has increased recently and over the long term.
Category F	The average rate of Category F injuries has been relatively stable since 2020.
Category G	The average rate of Category G injuries has been relatively stable since 2020.
<p>Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average rate of Category E injuries has declined consistently since 2017. • Injury rates in most other categories show long term increase. • Average rates of total injury and in Categories B, C and D have increased in the last 12 months. 	

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 E and 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 deliberations and data for this quarter. In some instances, more than one factor contributed to an injury, usually where track factors and racing incidents both contributed to an incident. 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	3	25	28
Race factors	11	22	33
Track factors	0	0	0
More than one factor	0	0	0
Unable to attribute factors	1	5	6
Total assessed	15	52	67
Gender of injured greyhound			
Female	7	29	36
Male	8	23	31
Age of injured greyhound to nearest 6 months			
1.5 years	2	1	3
2 years	4	3	7
2.5 years	3	20	23
3 years	1	12	13
3.5 years	4	7	11
4 years	0	6	6
4.5 years	0	2	2
> 5 years	1	1	2
Distance of race in which greyhound was injured (m)			
Under 300	1	2	3
300-399	7	22	29
400-499	4	12	16
500-600	3	16	19
Over 600	0	0	0
Location on track at which injury appears to have occurred			
Soon after start	1	7	8
Straight	1	8	9
Turn	11	33	44
After finish but before catching pen	2	2	4
Catching pen	0	0	0
Unknown	0	2	2
Race history of injured greyhounds			
Average and range of starts in last 30 days	2.5 (0 - 6)	2.4 (0 - 6)	2.4 (0 - 6)
Average and range of starts in last 60 days	4.9 (0 - 12)	4.5 (0 - 13)	4.6 (0 - 13)
Average and range of career starts	29.9 (0 - 80)	33.7 (2 - 83)	32.9 (0 - 83)