

Greyhound life cycle report

1 October – 31 December 2022



The Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission publishes a quarterly report of the status of the registered greyhound population and life cycle events such as the breeding, naming, retirement, euthanasia and death of 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.

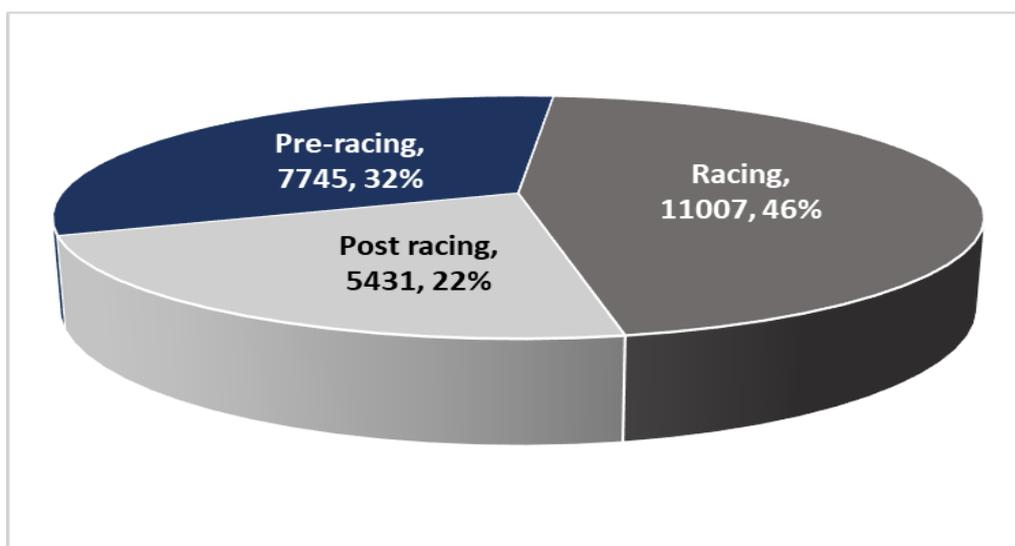
Note that this report has been republished to show corrected figures for this quarter's breeding section, as well as values for other sections that have been reconciled with historical annual reports for accuracy.

Greyhound numbers and status

The number of greyhounds on the NSW Greyhound Register in the quarter was estimated at 24,183 (Figure 1). Greyhounds on the NSW register are those owned by a NSW participant.

The recent introduction of a mandatory check-in for greyhounds that have not raced in the previous 6-months has led to a more accurate count of greyhounds in each life stage this quarter.

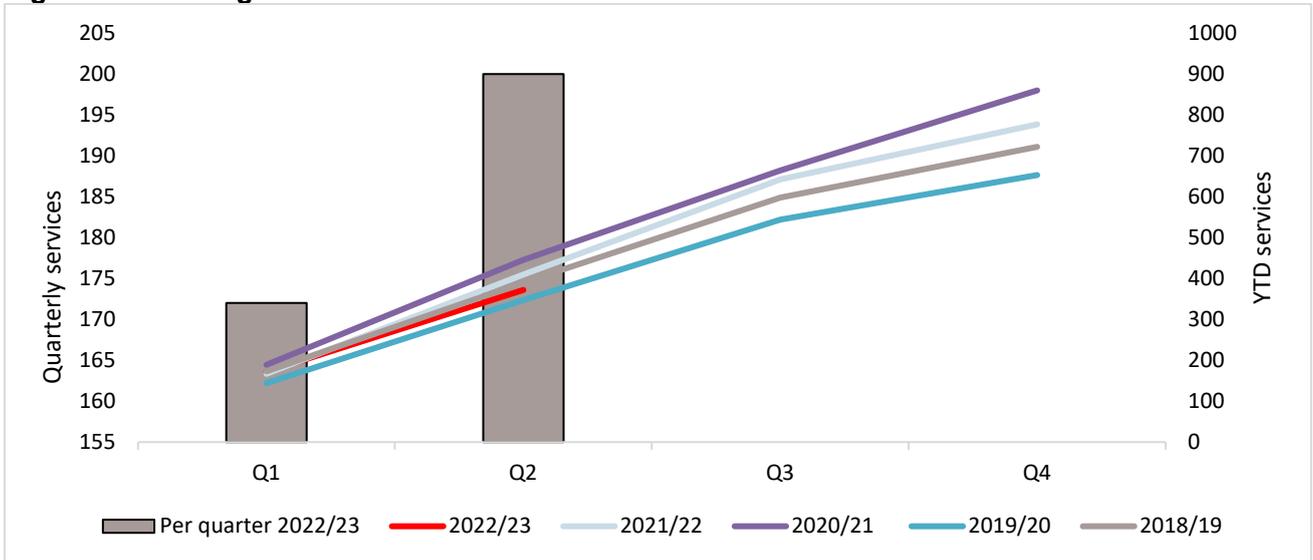
Figure 1: Status of greyhounds on the NSW Greyhound Register



Breeding

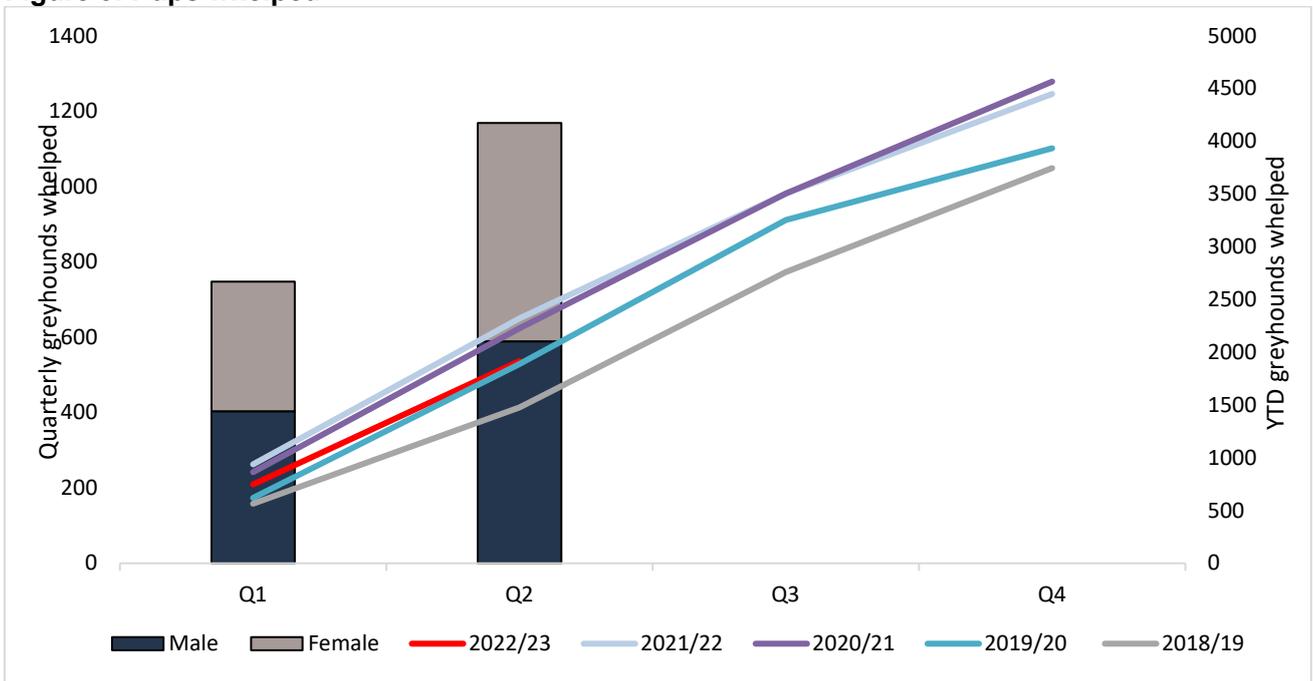
The Commission was notified of 201 greyhound breeding services during the quarter (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Breeding services



The Commission was notified of 1169 pups whelped from 170 litters during the quarter (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Pups whelped

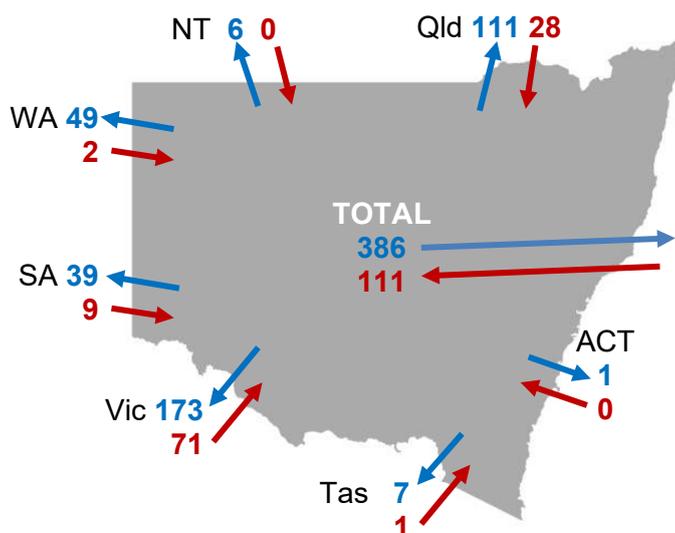


Interstate transfers and international exports

This quarter, 386 NSW-registered greyhounds were transferred out of NSW to other jurisdictions and 111 greyhounds were transferred from other jurisdictions into NSW (Figure 4). The largest exchanges both in and out of NSW were with Victoria and Queensland, probably reflecting the relative size of the greyhound racing industries in those states.

No international exports were recorded in the quarter.

Figure 4: Greyhounds transferred into and out of NSW



Retirement

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

Table 1: Greyhound retirements reported by participants this quarter

Destination	Number	%
Retained by an industry participant	120	31%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	125	32%
Accepted by Greyhounds As Pets ¹	100	26%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency ²	43	11%
Other	0	0
Total	388	

¹ A not-for-profit initiative coordinated by Greyhound Racing NSW.

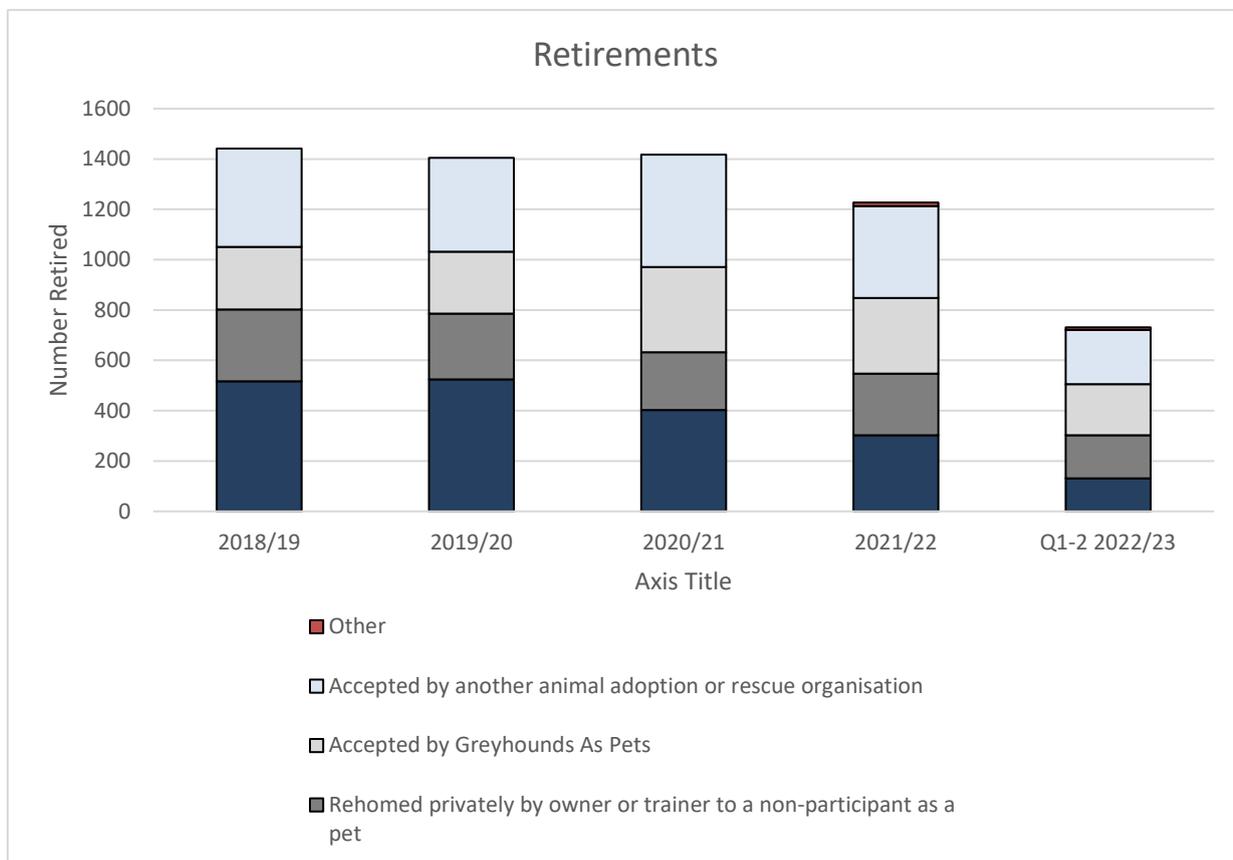
² Including the RSPCA, AWL or council animal care facilities.

The Commission was notified of 388 greyhound retirements during the quarter (Table 1).

Table 2: Greyhound retirement trends*

Destination	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22*	%	Q1-2 2022/23	%
Retained by an industry participant	517	36%	524	37%	403	28%	302	25%	131	18%
Rehomed privately by owner or trainer to a non-participant	285	20%	262	19%	229	16%	245	20%	172	24%
Accepted by Greyhounds as Pets (GAP)	249	17%	246	17%	339	24%	301	25%	203	28%
Accepted by another animal rescue or adoption agency	390	27%	373	27%	447	32%	365	30%	215	29%
Other							14	1%	10	1%
Total	1441		1405		1418		1227		731	

Figure 5: Greyhound retirement trends



The number of greyhounds retired in the first half of 2022/23 is on par with previous years, although the number may increase as late notifications are received (Table 2).

The proportion of retired greyhounds retained by an industry participant has declined over the last four financial years, while the proportion accepted by the NSW Greyhounds As Pets has increased (Figure 5).

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 due to		
injury ¹	27	32%
illness ¹	39	46%
Medical euthanasia due to emergency ²	0	0%
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury	17	20%
Euthanasia after rehoming attempts failed	2	2%
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified that the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming ³	0	0%
Total	85	

¹The 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.

²The 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*.

³Euthanasia 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.

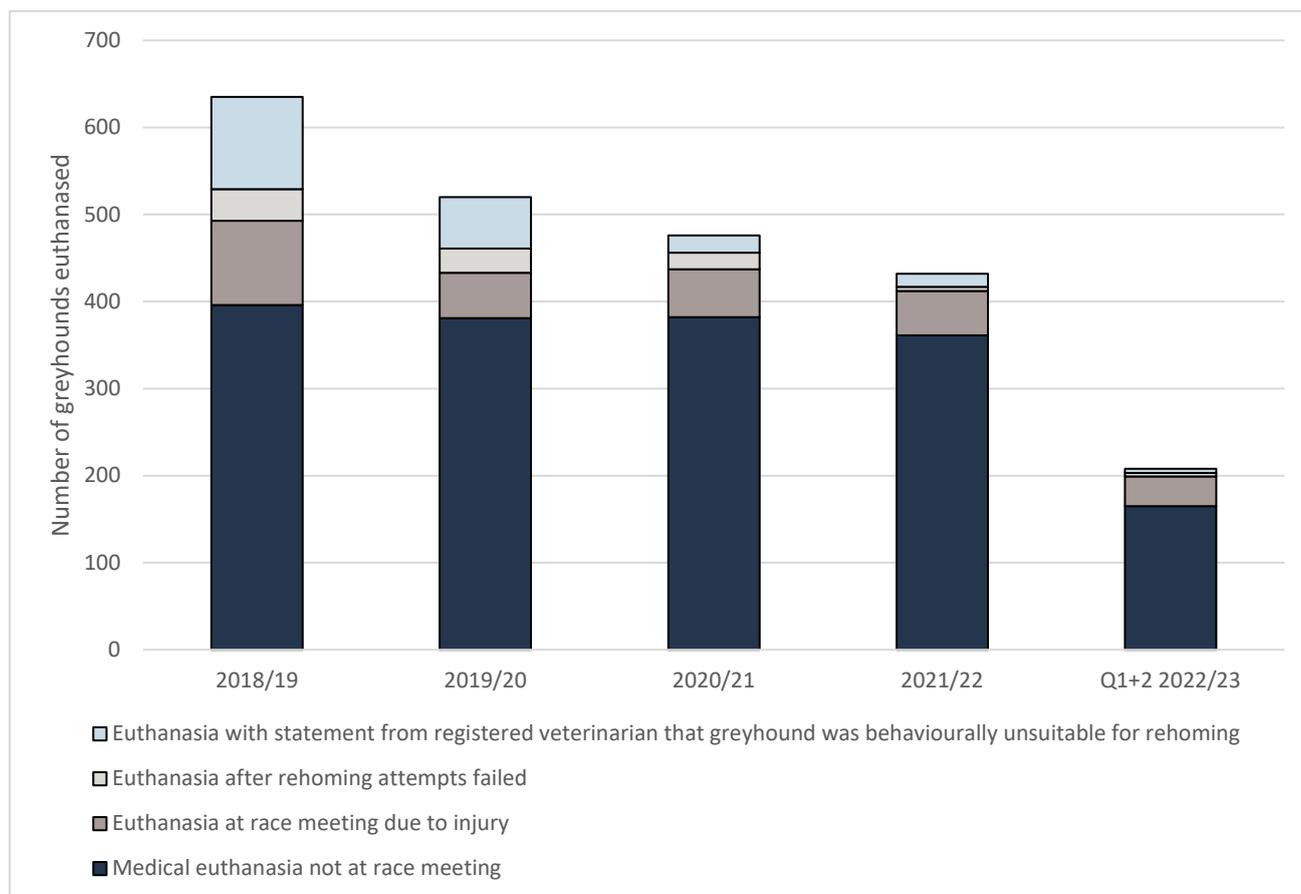
The Commission was notified of 85 registered greyhounds euthanased during the quarter (Table 3). In the 2022/23 year to date, 79% of these were euthanased because of illness or injury not occurring at a racetrack (Table 4).

Table 4: Greyhound euthanasia trends¹

Cause	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%	Q1-2 2022/23	%
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack	396	62%	381	74%	377	80%	372	85%	165	79%
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury	97	15%	50	10%	55	12%	48	11%	34	16%
Rehoming attempts failed	36	6%	28	5%	19	4%	5	1%	4	2%
Behaviourally unsuitable ²	106	17%	59	11%	20	4%	15	3%	5	2%
Total	635		518		471		440		208	

¹Euthanasia 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 number of greyhounds euthanased declined in 2021/22, which is consistent with the trend since 2018/19 (Figure 6). The number of euthanasias in the first half of 2022/23 is consistent with this trend.

The proportion of greyhounds euthanased for medical reasons (not at race meetings) has remained relatively stable over three years, while the annual proportion euthanased after the failure of rehoming attempts and for behavioural reasons has declined since 2018/19.

Death

The Commission was notified of 80 greyhound deaths during the quarter (Table 5).

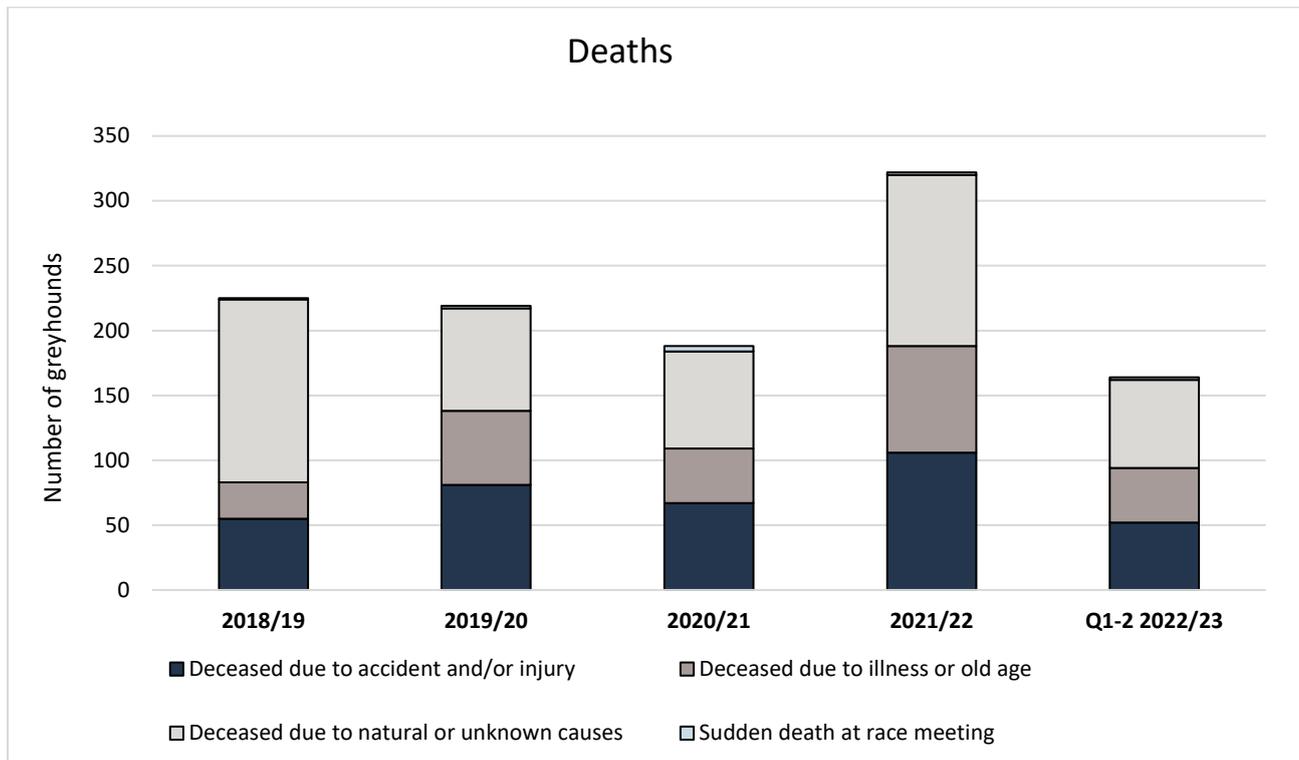
Table 5: Greyhound deaths reported by participants this quarter

Cause	Number	%
Deceased due to accident and/or injury	33	41%
Deceased due to illness or old age	13	16%
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	34	43%
Sudden death at race meeting	0	0%
Total	80	

Table 6: Greyhound death notification trends

Cause	FY 2018/19	%	FY 2019/20	%	FY 2020/21	%	FY 2021/22	%	Q1-2 2022/23	%
Accident and injury	55	24%	81	37%	67	36%	106	33%	52	32%
Illness or old age	28	12%	57	26%	42	22%	82	25%	42	26%
Natural or unknown causes	141	63%	79	36%	75	40%	132	41%	68	41%
Sudden death at race meeting	1	<1%	2	<1%	4	2%	2	<1%	2	1%
Total	225		219		188		322		164	

Figure 7: Greyhound death notification trends



The number of greyhounds that died in the first half of 2022/23 is relatively higher than in previous years (Table 6, Figure 7). This may be a factor of the size and age of the greyhound population, as greyhounds whelped prior to 2015/16 where breeding was high are now reaching an age where they are more likely to die from illness and old age.