

March, 2018



Finish on Lure Trial

Executive Summary

A trial of the Finish on Lure (FOL) was conducted by Racing Queensland, with the assistance of the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club, between February and October 2017.

A total of 12,864 starters participated in the trial, which was conducted at Albion Park.

Based on statistical analysis of the trial data there was sufficient evidence to conclude that:

- significantly less marring offences occur at FOL meetings;
- significantly less injuries occur over longer distances irrespective of meeting type.

Based on statistical analysis of the trial data there was no significant difference:

- between failing to pursue offences at Catching Pen and FOL meetings; and
- injuries at Catching Pen and FOL meetings.

In summary, Finish on Lure meetings reduced marring offences and there was no difference in injury rates between Catching Pen and FOL meetings.

Background

The Finish on Lure has been, and remains, one of the most talked about issues throughout the Australian greyhound racing industry.

There have been a variety of FOL trials across states and territories over the last decade and it has been in operation in New Zealand since 1978. Two tracks in South Australia currently conduct FOL meetings, and it is presently being trialled in Victoria.

To address the comments made by Queensland participants about the FOL, including previous trials and generally, Racing Queensland (RQ) decided to conduct a trial at Albion Park between February and October 2017. We thank the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club for their assistance with the trial.

It was important that the trial address the comments and views, some of which were held quite strongly, of a number of participants. Specifically, that we establish the level of industry support for the FOL (nominations received), whether more or less greyhounds offended compared to 'catching pen' meetings (specifically Failing to Pursue and Marring) and whether the FOL resulted in more or fewer greyhound injuries.

Key Results

Greyhound Nominations

- Both types of meetings received similar level of support in the form of nominations.
 - Monday 103 (CP) vs 100 (FOL)
 - Wednesday 115 (CP) vs 111 (FOL)
 - Sunday 152 (CP) vs 144 (FOL)

NOMINATIONS FEB – OCT 2017	CATCHING PEN (CP)	CATCHING PEN (CP)	CATCHING PEN (CP)	
MONTH	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	SUNDAY	CP TOTAL AVERAGE (includes Thursdays)
Average	103	115	152	116

NOMINATIONS FEB – OCT 2017	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	
MONTH	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	SUNDAY	FOL TOTAL AVERAGE
Average	100	111	144	118

Greyhound Offences:

NB: Offences are defined as any greyhound that is charged under the rules by the stewards for Marring or Failing to Pursue the lure, receives the relevant penalty and is published in the stewards report.

Statistical analysis of the data through the completion of a hypothesis test provides sufficient evidence, at 5% level of significance, to conclude that Marring offences are significantly less at FOL meetings. However, failing to pursue offences were not statistically significantly different between the two meeting types.

Offence Type	Catching Pen (CP)	Finish On Lure (FOL)
Failing To Pursue	23	4
Marring	48	7
Total	71	11
Starters	9707	3157
Per 100 starters	0.73	0.35

Failing to Pursue (Catching Pen v Finish on Lure) - p-value* = 0.1332

Marring (Catching Pen v Finish on Lure) - p-value = 0.0207

**Where a normal approximation of the sample could not be used due to the success/failure condition not being met, p-values were approximated using a binomial distribution.*

Greyhound Injuries

NB: Injuries are defined as any greyhound that received a stand down period (any length of time) as determined by the officiating (on-track) veterinary surgeon and published in the stewards report.

- From the records, it was not possible to identify exactly where during the race the greyhound suffered the injury. The officiating veterinary surgeon does not identify the location on the track where the injury occurred, nor does QRIC capture this information
- The injury rate at all Albion Park meetings during the trial period indicated:
 - 2.44 injuries per 100 starters at Catching Pen meetings
 - 2.88 injuries per 100 starters at FOL meetings
- Statistical analysis (hypothesis test) of this data suggests there is insufficient evidence, at 5% level of significance, to conclude that injuries are significantly higher at FOL meetings.

INJURIES	CATCHING PEN (CP)	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)
Total	237	91
Starters	9707	3157
Per 100 starters	2.44	2.88

Injuries (Catching Pen v. Finish on Lure) - p-value = 0.0853

- As a key result area, and mindful of some industry feedback that suggested some greyhounds are injured when finishing on the lure, RQ determined to examine this

matter further. As such, RQ conducted a random sample of 36 greyhounds with a recorded injury at FOL meetings. RQ telephoned and spoke with the trainer of each of the 36 greyhounds. We asked the trainers if they could recall where on the track the injury took place. The results indicated that 2.77% injuries occurred after the winning post whilst finishing on the lure, while the vast majority occurred during the running of the race.

- Interestingly, when examining injuries by distance, there was sufficient evidence to conclude, at 5% level of significance, there are significantly less injuries over longer distances (irrespective of meeting type).

INJURIES	CATCHING PEN (CP)	CATCHING PEN (CP)	CATCHING PEN (CP)	CATCHING PEN (CP)	CATCHING PEN (CP)	
Distance	331	395	520	600	710	CP Total
Total	43	82	93	14	5	237
Starters	1398	3112	4456	564	178	9707
Per 100 starters	3.08	2.63	2.09	2.48	2.82	2.44

INJURIES	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	FINISH ON LURE (FOL)	
Distance	331	395	520	600	710	FOL Total
Total	18	62	11	0	0	91
Starters	699	1767	591	100	0	3157
Per 100 starters	2.58	3.51	1.86	0.00	0	2.88

Catching Pen (Short distance v. Long distance) - p-value = 0.025;

Finish on Lure (Short distance v. Long distance) - p-value = 0.011

Summary of Key Results

Based on statistical analysis of the trial data there was sufficient evidence to conclude that:

- significantly less marring offences occur at finish on lure meetings;
- significantly less injuries occur over longer distances irrespective of meeting type.

Based on the statistical analysis of the trial data, there was no significant difference:

- between failing to pursue offences at catching pen and FOL meetings; and
- injuries at catching pen and FOL meetings