

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING
LETHAL TRACKS

NSW

UPDATE

**NSW TRACK-RELATED DEATHS
AND INJURIES, JAN-JUN 2021**

**PREPARED BY:
THE COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS**

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The data in this report regarding track-related deaths, injuries and associated events is drawn from publicly available stewards' reports. A summary of deaths and injuries for 2021 is available here: greyhoundcoalition.com/2021-australian-track-deaths-and-injuries/ and for 2020 here: greyhoundcoalition.com/2020-track-deaths-and-injuries/

Other sources of information are listed on the relevant pages or in the notes page at the end of this report.

If you have any feedback on the report, please email info@greyhoundcoalition.com

WELCOME

Welcome to the Lethal Tracks, NSW Update for the first half of 2021.

Earlier this year, the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG) produced our first annual track-related deaths and injuries report.

It detailed the horrific injuries suffered by greyhounds on Australian tracks in 2020.



Dennis with CPG team member Leo

Looking at the track carnage in the first half of 2021, one state stood out – New South Wales.

Analysis of stewards' reports show that in NSW almost 50 percent more greyhounds died in 2021 than in the same period last year. This is by far the worst fatality rate in Australia even allowing for the 11% increase in the number of race meetings.

These dogs lost their lives while the NSW racing minister and the racing industry boasted of the state's supposedly high animal welfare standards. This report shows that greyhound racing is a high-risk environment for dogs, causing senseless suffering and death.

Greyhound racing must be banned. It's animal cruelty, plain and simple, and can't be defended on any grounds. Powerful groups are invested in maintaining this cruelty – governments, media, racing and gambling industries - and their greed is harming our canine friends.

Encouragingly, more people are seeing the reality and helping to save these beautiful dogs, and ignoring the spin and lies. It's up to all of us to work together to ban greyhound racing and end greyhound suffering.

Kind regards, Dennis Anderson

National President, Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds

View CPG's Lethal Tracks 2020 here: greyhoundcoalition.com/lethal-tracks-2020/

TRACK-RELATED DEATHS & INJURIES

**36 GREYHOUNDS
KILLED**

SMART TREASURE

Smart Treasure was killed after breaking her leg during her first race at Taree on 23 April 2021.

Her racing career lasted 8 seconds.
She was two years old.



**1521
GREYHOUNDS
INJURED**

A SURGE IN DEATHS

There has been a sharp rise in NSW greyhound fatalities in the first six months of 2021.

36 greyhounds died on NSW tracks between 1 January and 30 June 2021. 25 greyhounds died in the same period in 2020.

These figures do not include those dogs who suffered serious injuries and were later euthanased or those killed during trials.

These deaths highlight obvious failings in track safety. This is despite the \$30m the NSW Government gave to the dog racing industry in 2017 to fix the tracks - only a small proportion of which has been spent.

**44% INCREASE
IN CATASTROPHIC
INJURIES LEADING
TO DEATH
ON TRACK**

36

25

JAN-JUN
2020

JAN-JUN
2021

DEATHS AT TRACK

"Racing greyhounds suffer terribly and endure dismal lives. There is no safe form of greyhound racing."

**Ex-greyhound racing vet,
2021**

HIGHEST DEATH RATE SINCE 2019

In its Q1 Injury Report covering Jan-Mar 2021, the NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) reported that **"The Catastrophic injury rate this quarter is the highest reported since Q1 2019"**.

According to the report, 22 greyhounds died because of catastrophic injuries suffered during racing in Q1. An additional seven track-related deaths were reported to GWIC, see chart below.⁽¹⁾

The GWIC Q2 Injury Report covering Apr-Jun 2021 was not available at the time this report was published.

Reported euthanased after sustaining injury in unofficial trial at racetrack.⁽²⁾

Reported euthanased by private veterinarian after sustaining injury at race meeting.⁽³⁾

Euthanased at the track due to catastrophic injuries sustained during racing.



"Almost 50 percent more greyhounds died in 2021 than in the same period last year. This is by far the worst fatality rate in Australia even allowing for the 11% increase in the number of race meetings."

Dennis Anderson
National President CPG

(1) GWIC notes this data relies on follow-ups by on track veterinarians and reports made by participants to GWIC and therefore may not be complete at the time of reporting.

(2) GWIC provided an update to the Q1 Injury Report stating that the euthanasia of 1 of the 2 greyhounds occurred before the reporting period of 1 Jan-31 Mar 2021.

(3) GWIC provided an update to the Q1 Injury Report increasing number of deaths from 4 to 5.

MORE INJURIES, MORE SUFFERING

"Greyhound racing is inherently dangerous. Greyhounds race at high speeds in conditions which make injuries almost inevitable."

Hansen Report, 2017

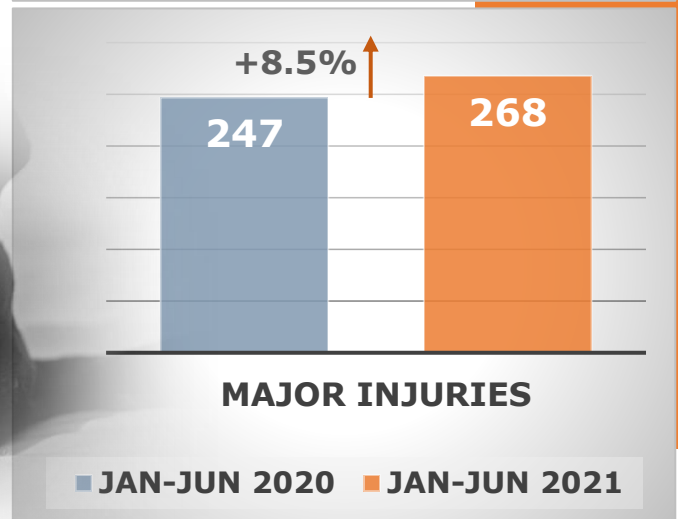
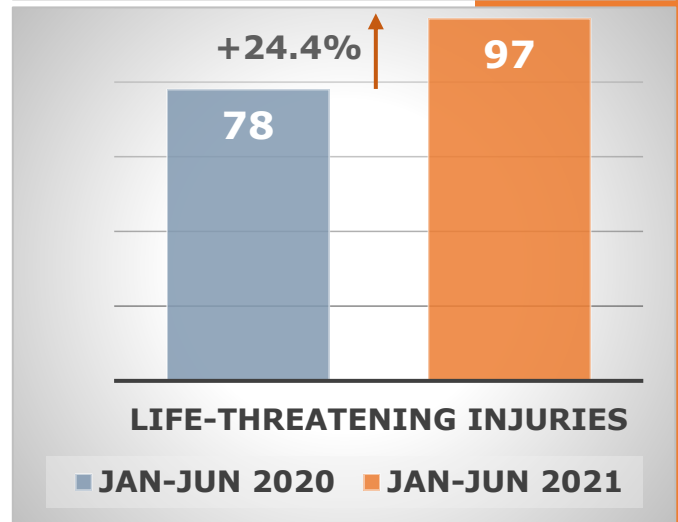
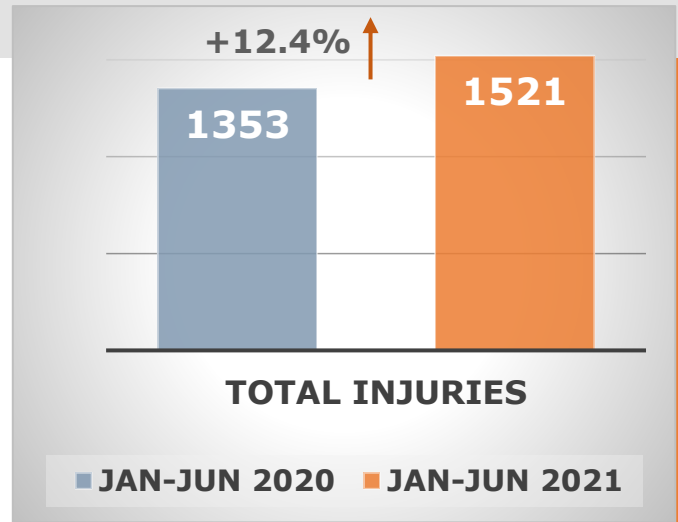
NSW racetracks are not just killing more greyhounds compared to 2020, but also injuring more dogs.

In Jan-Jun 2021, the number of injuries rose in all categories:

- Total injuries: **1521** (an increase of 12.4%)
- Major injuries: **268** (an increase of 8.5%)
- Life-threatening injuries: **97** (an increase of 24.4%)

Most serious, 'life-threatening' injuries were fractured ankles, along with broken wrists, forelegs, metatarsals, toes, fibula, and humerus.

Many of these greyhounds - with recovery periods of 60 or 90 days - will not return to racing, and their fates will be undocumented.



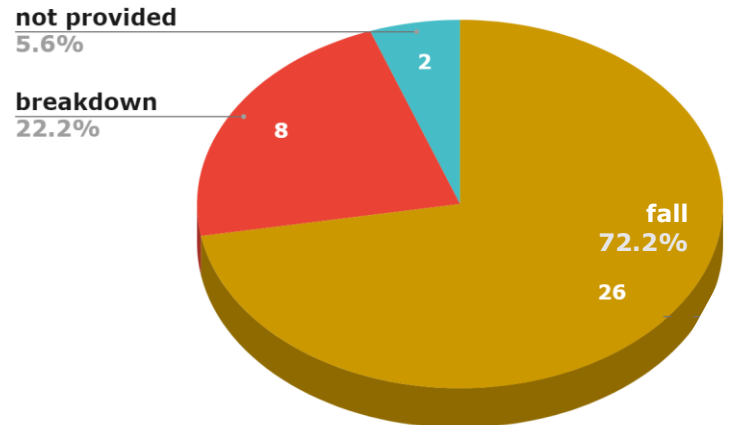
HOW GREYHOUNDS DIE WHILE RACING

They fall violently or break down

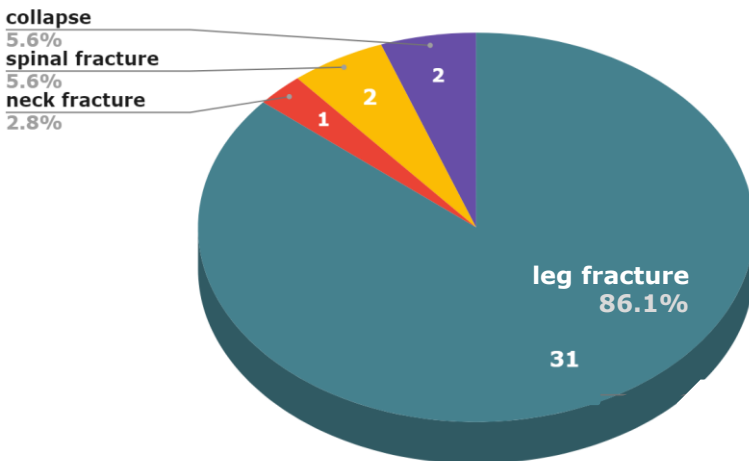
The racing environment for greyhounds on the tracks is brutal, marked by collisions and violent falls. 72% of racing deaths in NSW in the first half of 2021 were the result of greyhounds falling at high speeds.

22% of racing deaths occurred when greyhounds broke down after suffering a serious injury such as a broken leg.

Greyhound track-related deaths, NSW Jan-Jun 2021, by cause



Greyhound track-related deaths, NSW Jan-Jun 2021, by injury type



They break their legs

There is enormous force exerted on the paws and legs of racing greyhounds. Leg fractures are the leading cause of greyhounds being killed on the racing track.

This is despite many of these injuries being treatable. There is also a NSW Race Injury Rebate Scheme available to owners unable or unwilling to pay treatment costs.

They collide with other dogs

Studies conducted by the University of Technology Sydney and CPG have proven that six-dog racing is safer than eight-dog racing. As with track turns, too many greyhounds in a race leads to the congestion responsible for the majority of fatal and life-threatening injuries.

While Greyhound Racing NSW trialled six-dog racing, no findings were released to the public. There has been no further action on implementing six-dog racing.



WORST TRACKS

BY DEATHS

Richmond	5
Wagga Wagga	4
Maitland	3
Wentworth Park	3
Wauchope	3
The Gardens	2
Kempsey	2
Gunnedah	2
Dapto	2
Casino	2
Bulli	2
Taree	1
Muswellbrook	1
Lismore	1
Gosford	1
Dubbo	1
Coonamble	1



How racing kills young, healthy greyhounds

36 young greyhounds were killed on NSW racetracks in the first half of 2021, according to publicly-available stewards' reports.

This number doesn't include those dogs with major injuries that were taken from the tracks and later euthanased. Industry reporting makes it difficult to track the whereabouts and well-being of these dogs.

Most of the 36 greyhounds suffered typical fatal injuries – often treatable – of broken legs caused by falls at track turns.

There were also disturbing deaths that say a lot about how hard the dogs are being raced. Hallside Sam died from a ruptured aorta and Firefly Jen from a heart attack.

WORST TRACKS

BY INJURIES

Richmond	294
Wentworth Park	147
The Gardens	122
Casino	112
Dapto	85
Dubbo	80
Bulli	69
Lismore	66
Gosford	63
Goulburn	63
Bathurst	59
Taree	56
Nowra	48
Wauchope	40
Gunnedah	38
Wagga Wagga	33
Maitland	31
Muswellbrook	18
Grafton	17
Kempsey	16
Potts Park	13
Young	12
Temora	10
Tamworth	8
Broken Hill	7
Coonamble	7
Moree	4
Lithgow	3



12 JUNE 2021

20 NSW greyhounds injured in a Saturday of suffering

Eight greyhounds were injured at the Wentworth Park track in Sydney, while four were hurt at the new straight track at Richmond.

More greyhounds were injured at Dubbo, Broken Hill, and at The Gardens in Newcastle.

Nine greyhounds either fell during races or failed to finish due to injuries. Three greyhounds fell in one incident alone in Race 5 at the notorious first turn at Wentworth Park.

The range of injuries included lacerations, abrasions, muscle injuries, shoulder injuries, leg injuries, spike wounds, bruising, and an injured belly.

View more CPG News here: greyhoundcoalition.com/cpg-news

FAILURES IN TRACK SAFETY

There is no way of protecting dogs from catastrophic injuries, most of which occur on turns, placing asymmetrical loading forces on the inside limbs. This increases the chance of collision as the dogs try to adjust.

Dr Rosemary Elliott, President, Sentient, the Veterinary Institute for Animal Ethics

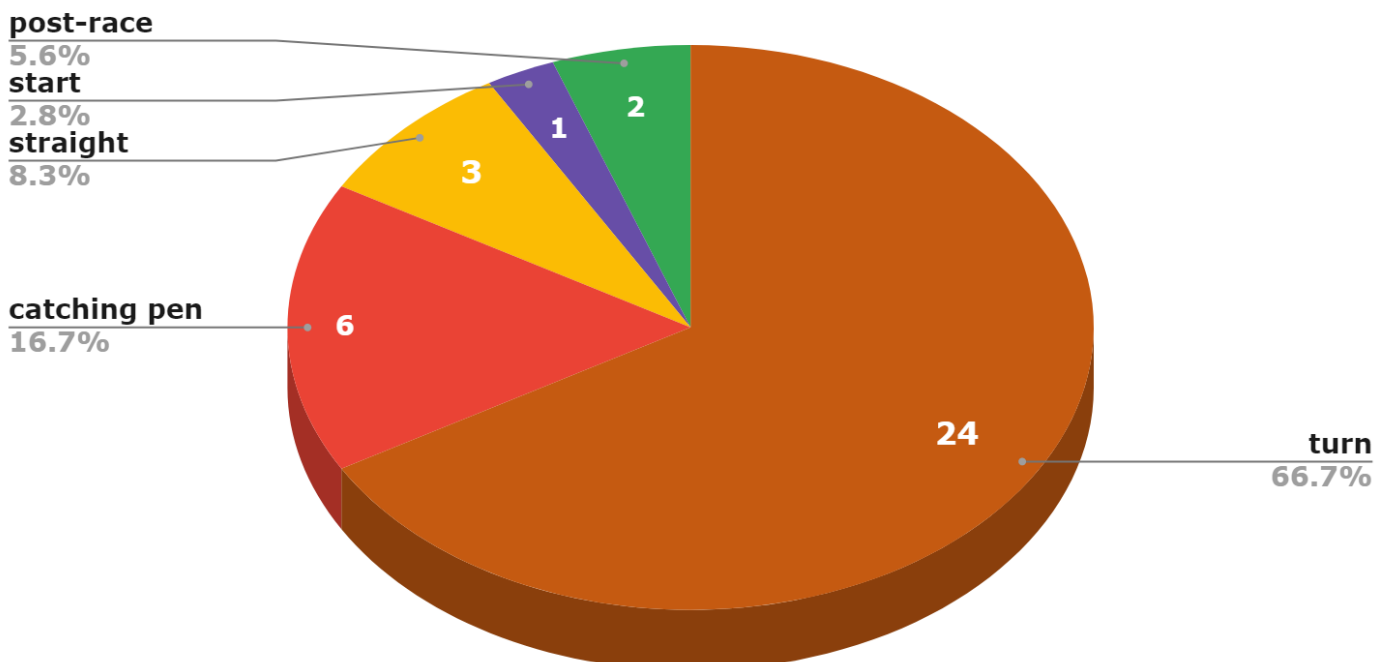
No racing track is safe for greyhounds but industry research and statistics show that curved tracks are by far the most deadly.

Dogs collide at high speeds, particularly at track turns, and often fall. This is compounded by too many greyhounds starting each race and lures positioned too close to the rail. Catching pens are also lethal areas.

In 2021, NSW racing minister Kevin Anderson admitted that track turns were dangerous. The NSW Government also announced that \$23 million would be given to the industry to improve track safety.

However, there has been no indication that curved tracks will be replaced with straight tracks. There has also been a marked lack of action to adopt six-dog racing or reposition lures.

Greyhound track-related deaths, NSW Jan-Jun 2021, by location on track



CURVED VS STRAIGHT TRACKS

"Clearly the best option is to use only straight tracks" **UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY**

In 2017, the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) produced a track safety report commissioned by Greyhound Racing NSW. Their number one recommendation was that greyhounds should only race on straight tracks.

In April 2021, racing minister Kevin Anderson opened the Richmond straight track and called it a "**massive milestone in improving welfare outcomes in the sport**".


Richmond is the only straight track in NSW and racing still continues on the adjacent curved track.

BUILDING ANOTHER LETHAL TRACK

The Tweed Heads Coursing Club has spent nearly \$2 million to purchase a 32 hectare site at Chinderah in the Tweed Shire to build a new greyhound racing track, dubbed a 'Centre of Excellence'. According to a Coursing Club spokesperson their "utopia is a 400 metre straight track and a circle track".

Yet again, Greyhound Racing NSW appears intent on ignoring their own research. This shows that greyhound deaths and injuries can be substantially reduced through straight tracks, six-dog races and re-positioning of the lure.

Animal Liberation together with the Greens and the Animal Justice Party strongly oppose greyhound racing and the building of additional lethal tracks like the proposed Tweed track.



"No civilised society should accept the systemic animal suffering and abuse that we witness in the greyhound racing industry.

All industries guilty of entrenched animal cruelty and preventable injuries and deaths must be outlawed, as has occurred with dog fighting."

**Lisa Ryan
Regional Campaigns
Manager, Animal Liberation**

NSW GOVERNMENT WELFARE FAILINGS



Mehreen with her rescue greyhound Cosmo

"People would be horrified to know their tax dollars are propping up this gambling industry, rife with animal cruelty."

**Senator Mehreen Faruqi,
Greens NSW**

FUNDING THE INDUSTRY WITH TAXPAYER MONEY

NSW Government increases funding to more than \$50 million in the first half of 2021.

FAILURE IN GOVERNMENT E-TRACKING SYSTEM

Legal loophole means that greyhounds can still be written off the industry's books and euthanased.

"Too many greyhounds are still slipping through the cracks of the racing industry, at risk of being killed because of a loophole in the law."

Abigail Boyd MP, Greens NSW



Abigail Boyd with rescue greyhound Tiny

"WIPE OUT" OF WELFARE RECOMMENDATIONS

From wanting to shut it down in 2016, the NSW Government now wants to secure its future.

"In the history of NSW has there ever been such a craven collapse to a powerful lobby group, with a government going from good policy to bad policy in a heartbeat."

**Peter FitzSimons,
Columnist, 9 Newspapers**

NOTES

General

- (1) CPG uses the GWIC NSW classification system to record Australian injury data, except for "Catastrophic" injuries classified as euthanased or sudden death. These are included by CPG in the number of greyhounds killed. CPG includes injuries ranging from those classified as 'Minor' (minor cuts, abrasions, pad injuries, Grade 1 muscle injuries requiring treatment) to 'Major II' (long bone fractures; severe spinal, pelvic or skull injuries; major fracture dislocations; Achilles tendon ruptures). Major II are also classed as 'life threatening' or 'career threatening'. From January 2020, GWIC no longer reported injuries where no time off from racing was required. CPG continued to record these injuries.
- (2) CPG volunteers manually check stewards' reports and consolidate injury and death data. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, errors and omissions may occur particularly when stewards' reports are updated with additional information after the race date. If you wish to confirm the accuracy of the information please check the stewards' reports made available by racing bodies in each state.

Links to further information

- Page 6:** NSW Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC): [Analysis of greyhound racing injuries, 1 January 2021- 31 March 2021](#). GWIC provided CPG with updates to the GWIC injuries report on 27 July 2021. The updates relevant to this report are listed as footnotes on page 6.
- Page 7:** Hon Rodney Hansen QC: [Report to New Zealand Racing Board on Welfare Issues Affecting Greyhound Racing in New Zealand](#)
- Pages 8,11, 12:** University of Technology Sydney: [Identifying Optimal Greyhound Track Design for Greyhound Safety and Welfare, Phase 1 Report](#)
Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds: [The Case for Six-dog Races](#)
Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds: [The Case for Straight Tracks](#)
- Page 11,13:** Kevin Anderson MP, racing minister: [Funding \(\\$23m\) for greyhound racing industry](#)
- Page 13:** Kevin Anderson MP, racing minister: [Funding \(\\$25m\) for greyhound racing industry](#)
Kevin Anderson MP, racing minister: [Funding \(\\$3.6m\) for greyhound e-tracking](#)
Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Greens NSW: [Government funds richest greyhound race](#)
Abigail Boyd MP, Greens NSW: [Bill to ensure no more missing greyhounds](#)
Peter FitzSimons, SMH: [Has there every been a more craven collapse to a lobby group](#)

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END GREYHOUND SUFFERING



Barrington is so excited about starting his life as a pet.

You can meet him at greyhoundrescue.com.au

Greyhound rescue groups across Australia operate on a fraction of the budget enjoyed by industry adoption programs. They save, rehabilitate and rehome thousands of dogs on donations and volunteer determination. You can find a list of rescue groups [here](#). Please do everything you can to support them.

ABOUT COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS

CPG is a dedicated group of people across Australia committed to banning greyhound racing. Until that happens we do everything we can to protect greyhounds by exposing the cruelty of the racing industry.

We would like to acknowledge our wonderful allies and partners including Animal Liberation, GREY2KUSA, Sentient, The Greens, Animal Justice Party, Andrew Wilkie MP, Alex Greenwich MP and all the other activist and rehoming groups who never stop fighting for the greyhounds.

Please join with all of us to demand that state governments ban this cruel and outdated practice.



greyhoundcoalition.com



[CoalitionForTheProtectionOfGreyhounds](https://www.facebook.com/CoalitionForTheProtectionOfGreyhounds)



[coalitionprotectgreyhounds](https://www.instagram.com/coalitionprotectgreyhounds)



[save_greyhounds](https://twitter.com/save_greyhounds)



36 KILLED - THEIR FINAL MOMENTS



The images above are taken from race videos. They show each greyhound's fatal incident or their last moments if the incident occurred off-screen.

REST IN PEACE Hallside Sam, Dandy Dale, Harvey John, Slim Pickings, Manila Cruz, Stone Blaster, Tamika, Some Gave All, Zipping Squiggle, Only Cecil, Glenreagh Skud, Ebony's Reject, Firefly Jen, Azure Gambler, Sassy Queen, Tells All, Pacific Tree, Serenity, Run Sadiq Run, Legacies, Carson Bale, Flighty Lady, Smart Treasure, Cosmic Wind, Flame Offiah, Gordito, Royal Merchant, She Can Fly, Hatchback, Sketchy Trapdoor, Flying Fortress, Eli Boy, Castle Archer, Cawbourne Claw, Pretty Smart and Dewana Chic.