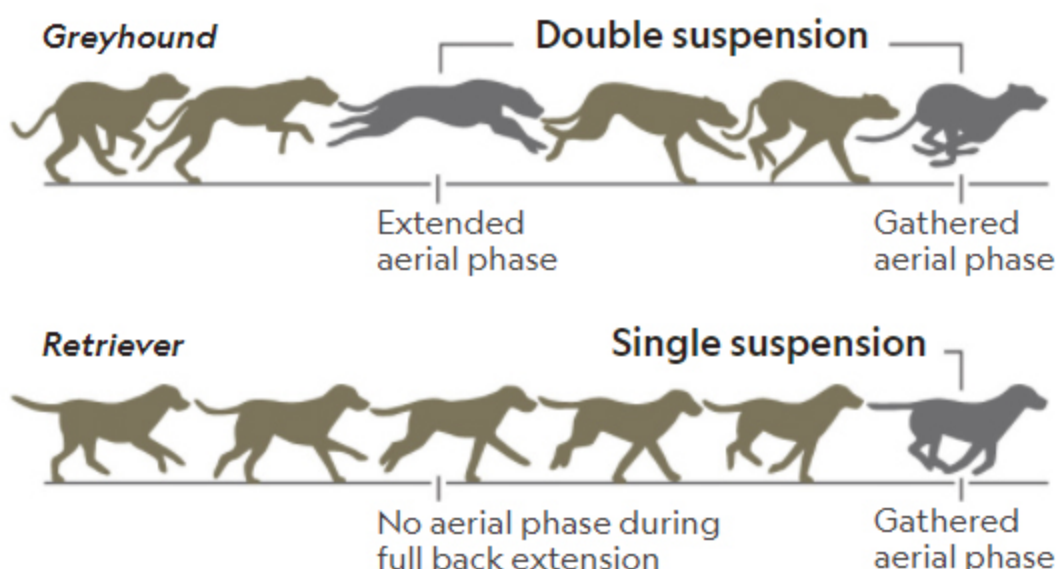


Ready to Run

What makes greyhounds the fastest dog breed also makes them susceptible to injuries on the racetrack

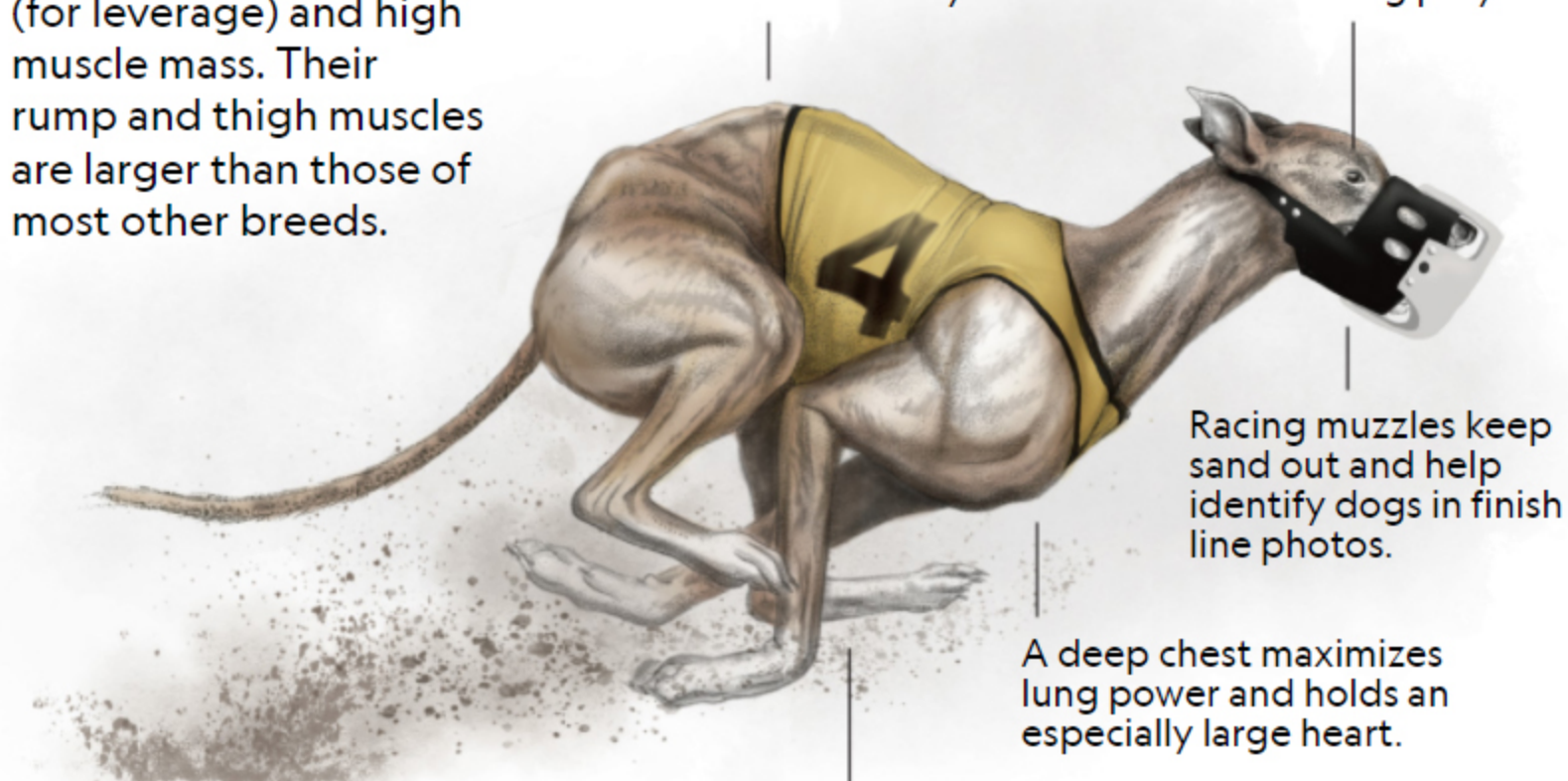
A greyhound can be airborne 75 percent of the time, twice per full gallop. Most other breeds, such as retrievers, are aloft only once per gallop.



They're propelled by very long foot bones (for leverage) and high muscle mass. Their rump and thigh muscles are larger than those of most other breeds.

A body fat content of just 2 percent and a thin layer of fur make it harder to stay warm.

A keen sense of sight aids in chasing fast-moving prey.



Angling to the left at racing speed can cause stress fractures and other injuries in the ankle, wrist, and foot.



A RACER'S CAREER

GROW 12 months	Litters are reported to the National Greyhound Association. Puppies' right ears are tattooed with their birth date and litter order; a registration number is tattooed on the left ear.
TRAIN 18 months	Dogs first run on straight sprint paths. Then they train on small circular tracks—chasing a lure at the end of a pole—before moving to larger tracks, chasing mechanical lures.
RACE 3-4 years	Racers compete twice a week on average, often traveling to multiple tracks in different states. When not competing, they rest in crates and are routinely let out to walk, stretch, and play.
RETIRE	At about age four, greyhounds are past their racing peak. Some retired dogs are used for breeding; most are adopted as pets. Activists tracking the industry have noted instances of abuse and killing of some racers.

↓ Expected life span of 12-15 years

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 SOURCES: MICHAEL GRANATOSKY, NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY; GUILLERMO COUTO, GREYHOUND HEALTH INITIATIVE; NATIONAL GREYHOUND ASSOCIATION; RAY FERGUSON, AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND WORKING AND SPORTING DOG VETERINARIANS