# Thoroughbred Welfare Matters

THE WELFARE OF THOROUGHBRED HORSES IN NEW ZEALAND

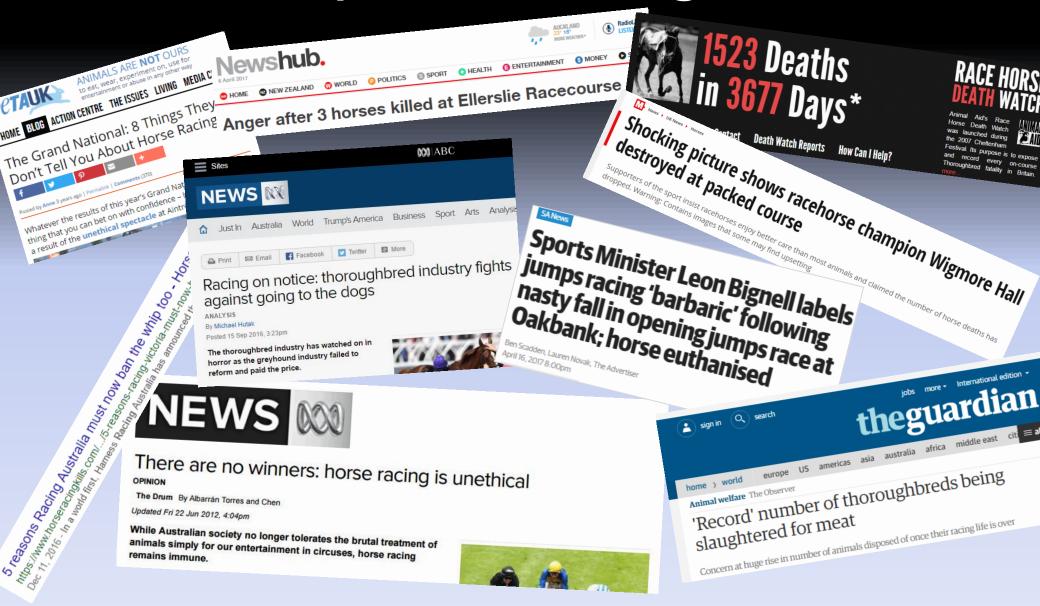
NZTR PRESENTATION TO NZ THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSN. CAMBRIDGE 25 JULY 2017 – MARTIN BURNS



- Only a healthy horse that is free from both mental and physical distress can enjoy a good life and perform to its natural abilities.
- We want our horses to be the best they can be, to thrive, live long, to help make the sport of racing enjoyable for all of us.
- Protecting the horse is also protecting our profession, which contributes to the livelihood of many New Zealanders.
- Our sport relies on the welfare of all the horses that we breed and race.



# Public acceptance of racing is vital



# Act and boldly communicate

- Improvements needed in key areas.
- Not just NZTR, <u>all of us</u> need to accurately tell our story:
  - o Honest
  - o Detailed fact base
  - o Transparent
  - o Credible
  - Share our `untold' stories

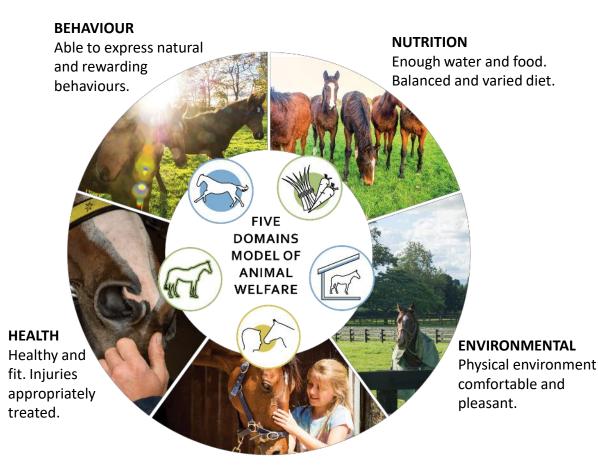


# Vision for thoroughbred welfare in NZ

A thoroughbred should be provided a good life, with the care and conditions that will allow the horse to thrive and perform to its natural abilities, with minimal discomfort and an absence of suffering.

## The welfare science behind our aims

- A structured way of thinking provides a strong foundation.
- To achieve this, we will develop our thoroughbred welfare vision upon the Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare.



MENTAL OR AFFECTIVE STATE Comfortable in environment. Sociable contact and

bonding with other animals. Close bond between horse and human.







#### Traceability

• We need to identify and understand why some foals don't progress to race, and when horses leave racing or breeding herd, know where they go, what they do and that they will be well cared for.



#### Retraining and rehoming

• It is the desire of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing to ensure that as many of our horses as possible are retrained and rehomed for second careers as equestrian or pleasure horses.



# Key issues



#### Injuries in racing and training

• Most of the injuries that occur are minor, and we aim to monitor injuries and work with veterinarians to reduce risk and improve treatment. Promote understanding of why euthanasia is the most humane action in the occurrence of limb fractures.



#### Jumps racing

 Jumps races are an inherent part of thoroughbred racing in NZ and we continue to monitor and take measures to improve jumps racing safety.



# Key issues



#### The whip

- Rules and guidelines already in place limit the use of the whip and remain under regular review.
- Riding Master tuition emphasising hands and heels riding through improving jockey fitness, technique, rhythm and balance.



#### Neglect

- Neglect has many reasons and will occur on rare occasion. When it does we work closely with RNZSCPA to help the affected horse.
- NZTR will stipulate higher thresholds of care and condition of thoroughbreds under the care of industry participants.



# Supporting rules, regulations and guidelines

- Usual and appropriate standards of horsemanship and the timely engagement of skilled professionals will ensure that minimum requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, the Code of Welfare for Horses and Donkeys & MPI regulations.
- Detailed enhancements are required to the Rules of Racing and guidelines to provide explicit and enforceable welfare related obligations, including enhanced traceability provisions.



## **Breeders: Traceability and Advocacy**

- Changes to SR24 (Rule 417).
- Submission of past records (August 2014).
- Survey will be conducted by Massey University.
- We need your full and active support.

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING INC

ATION OF RETIREMENT OR DEATH OF A THOROUGH

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