



Thoroughbred Welfare Matters

THE WELFARE OF THOROUGHBRED HORSES IN NEW ZEALAND
NZTR PRESENTATION TO NZ THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSN.
CAMBRIDGE 25 JULY 2017 – MARTIN BURNS



Aims

- 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

etAUK ANIMALS ARE NOT OURS to eat, wear, experiment on, use for entertainment or abuse in any other way
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Newshub. 6 April 2017
AUCKLAND 23° 16° MORE WEATHER
Radio LISTEN

Anger after 3 horses killed at Ellerslie Racecourse

1523 Deaths in 3677 Days*
RACE HORSE DEATH WATCH
Animal Aid's Race Horse Death Watch was launched during the 2007 Cheltenham Festival. Its purpose is to expose and record every on-course Thoroughbred fatality in Britain.
more...

The Grand National: 8 Things They Don't Tell You About Horse Racing
Posted by Anne 3 years ago | Permalink | Comments (270)

Whatever the results of this year's Grand National, it's a thing that you can bet on with confidence – a result of the unethical spectacle at Aintree.

Shocking picture shows racehorse champion Wigmore Hall destroyed at packed course
Supporters of the sport insist racehorses enjoy better care than most animals and claimed the number of horse deaths has dropped. Warning: Contains images that some may find upsetting

Sports Minister Leon Bignell labels jumps racing 'barbaric' following nasty fall in opening jumps race at Oakbank; horse euthanised
Ben Scadden, Lauren Novak, The Advertiser
April 16, 2017 8:00pm

NEWS ABC
Just In Australia World Trump's America Business Sport Arts Analysis
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Racing on notice: thoroughbred industry fights against going to the dogs
ANALYSIS
By Michael Hutak
Posted 15 Sep 2016, 3:23pm
The thoroughbred industry has watched on in horror as the greyhound industry failed to reform and paid the price.

NEWS ABC

There are no winners: horse racing is unethical
OPINION
The Drum By Albarrán Torres and Chen
Updated Fri 22 Jun 2012, 4:04pm
While Australian society no longer tolerates the brutal treatment of animals simply for our entertainment in circuses, horse racing remains immune.

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Animal welfare The Observer
'Record' number of thoroughbreds being slaughtered for meat
Concern at huge rise in number of animals disposed of once their racing life is over

5 reasons Racing Australia must now ban the whip too - Horse racing kills
<https://www.horseracingkills.com/.../5-reasons-racing-victoria-must-now-ban-the-whip-too>
Dec 11, 2016 - In a world first, Harness Racing Australia has announced the...



Act and boldly communicate

- Improvements needed in key areas.
- Not just NZTR, all of us need to accurately tell our story:
 - Honest
 - Detailed fact base
 - Transparent
 - 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.

BEHAVIOUR

Able to express natural and rewarding behaviours.

NUTRITION

Enough water and food. Balanced and varied diet.



HEALTH

Healthy and fit. Injuries appropriately treated.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Physical environment comfortable and pleasant.

MENTAL OR AFFECTIVE STATE

Comfortable in environment. Sociable contact and bonding with other animals. Close bond between horse and human.



Key issues



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
PO Box 38386, Wellington Mail Centre | Telephone: (04) 576 6240 | Facsimile: (04) 568 8866
Web: www.nzracing.co.nz | Email: office@nzracing.co.nz

SR24: 05-15 (A requirement under Rule 417)
NOTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT OR DEATH OF A THOROUGHBRED
(FORM SR24 DOES NOT APPLY TO HORSES RETIRING FROM RACING AND TRANSFERRING TO THOROUGHBRED BREEDING)

1. DEATH OR RETIREMENT OF A THOROUGHBRED
Death or Retirement from Racing or Retirement from Breeding or Retirement from Racing & Breeding

2. HORSE DETAILS
Name (if known): _____
Sex: _____ Dam: _____
Age: _____ Sex: Colt Filly Mare Gelding Colour: Bay Black Brown Chestnut Grey Other: _____

3. IDENTIFY HORSE (All brands to be completed clearly)
Near Shoulder (LEFT) Cipher Brand: _____ Off Shoulder (RIGHT) Numerical Brand: _____

4. DETAILS OF DEATH (TO BE COMPLETED ONLY FOR A DECEASED HORSE)
Date of Death: _____ Place of Death: _____
Cause of Death: Euthanasia Natural Causes Race Accident Other If other, specify: _____
Status at Death: Unraced Raced Spelling Retired At Stud

5. DECLARATION
Name: _____ Your involvement with the horse: Owner or Authorized Agent/Racing Manager
Address: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

6. DE REGISTRATION (TO BE COMPLETED ONLY FOR DE REGISTRATION OF A HORSE)
Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

I confirm I wish to apply to NZTR to permanently de-register the above-identified horse for the purposes of (choose only one option below):
Racing and breeding Racing Breeding
(This will prevent all future owners from racing and/or breeding from the horse under the Rules of Racing e.g. injury)



Contact

Website: www.nzracing.co.nz

Email: martin.burns@nzracing.co.nz

Phone: 0275 110 348