

**Independent inquiry in to the regulatory and oversight
arrangements for the operation of abattoirs and other facilities
accepting horse for slaughter and the management of retired
racehorses in Queensland, including horses moved from interstate**

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General Overview

The Thoroughbred Racing Industry, has been an integral part of Australian culture, since the first race meeting was held in Hyde Park NSW in 1810. Australia has more racecourses than any other nation and provides full or part-time employment for almost 250,000 people.

The Racing Industry has been a source of enjoyment, passion and celebration for centuries. Champion racehorse, Pharlap became a legend, as was able to lift the spirits of the nation during the depression. In more recent times, Champion mares Black Caviar and Winx, restored the fervour for racing with their amazing deeds on the track. However, despite the efforts of both of these great mares, neither has been able to stem the steady deterioration of people's perception of the Thoroughbred Racing Industry.

The exposure of large-scale cheating, animal torture and abuse has seriously damaged racing's reputation. The introduction of 'super stables' with hundreds of horses on their books raises questions about monopolisation and the potential risk of race fixing. Many within the industry are becoming cynical and questioning if it really is an even playing field.

The exposure of the conditions and treatment of horses, at the Queensland abattoir featured on the 7.30 Report was a final straw for many and the Racing Industry felt the full force of community backlash.

Startled by the outrage and heartbreak, expressed on social media by the general horse loving community and racing enthusiasts alike, I decided to create a Facebook group entitled "*Meeting to Discuss Racehorse Welfare*". The aim of the group is to seek constructive, viable, sustainable solutions, to protect the welfare of Equine Participants. The Facebook group is rapidly growing and currently has over 700 members. The majority of contributions have been well thought out and have come from people both within the racing industry and in the wider equine community.

The Victorian and New South Wales Racing Authorities have for some time been aware that the image of Racing has been tainted and they are to be congratulated for their swift response to both stand down cheats and for their leadership in Thoroughbred Welfare.

Queensland and the other states and territories need to follow suit and implement programs to ensure the continued legacy of the industry. Most of the ground work has already been done by the other states but there will be specific issues that pertain to Queensland.

In the following document you will read a collection of suggestions and solutions obtained from multiple sources across a range of the equestrian disciplines.

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1. Should welfare standards for retired racehorses be defined in terms of quality of life or length of life, or both?

In an ideal world every horse would be 'saved' and provided with a long and wonderful life but sadly this is not practical and there will be horses that will end up at the knackery or abattoir for various reasons:

- Old age
- Unsound (e.g. unable to be ridden at all)
- Unsuitable (e.g. dangerous, barren)
- Drought (e.g. lack of feed and/or water)

Life should always be about quality first and foremost. A quality long life is ideal but longevity without quality of life is not desirable.

Criteria for the Quality of life for a horse means the following:

- being healthy/sound
- appropriately fed
- drenched for worms
- hooves trimmed or shod
- vaccinations up to date
- social companionship

Ultimately, quality of life is when the horse is cared for, not abused and has a job.

When a racehorse retires from racing the trainer and regular veterinarian should be able to advise on whether the horse will be suitable for the following:

- re-education following the mandatory six week spell
- rehabilitation followed by re-education (i.e. tendonitis)
- unsuitable for re-education (dangerous, severe injury which renders the horse unrideable)

We need to be mindful that not every horse will be able to be saved by the Welfare Fund so we should be concentrating our efforts on the best horses (i.e. those that are sound and of good temperament) horses.

We need to educate the owners of racehorses to take responsibility and care for their horses after racing. We need to encourage them to pay for the mandatory post racing spell and the rehabilitation of injured horses.

The idea is that the Welfare Fund will step in to assist when all other avenues have been exhausted.

2. Is there still an argument for the commercial slaughter of horses, if performed appropriately and humanely?

In Europe the horse meat market, was created out of necessity hundreds of years ago. During times of war and famine the horse meat was essential to ward off starvation and to this day it is often the only affordable source of protein for eastern nations. As European's developed a taste for horse, particular cuts of meat, have become a delicacy. In Japan, horse meat is served as sushi and is also considered a delicacy. Some will argue that if the horse has to die then nothing should be wasted.

In Australia, horses are considered to be companion animals and as such the human consumption of horse meat is socially unacceptable.

In an ideal world it would be wonderful to think that every horse is able to be rehomed but that is simply not realistic. Whilst the idea of sending a horse to an abattoir is abhorrent to most people, there are situations where it is a necessary evil, such as:

- The horse is suffering an untreatable injury
- The horse is old and age is causing suffering and pain
- Due to severe drought there is a lack of feed and water
- If the horse is dangerous or unmanageable

The emphasis must be on ensuring that the process is performed properly and humanely. All reasonable measures must be made to ensure that the process is as humane as possible within the constraints of practicality. There needs to be the following:

- A high standard of care for horses that end up in the abattoir
- No welfare issues in either the transport
- No welfare issues in the handling of horses at the abattoir
- Guidelines need to be set and adhered to strictly

When the USA banned the slaughter of horses there was a ridiculous number of bad outcomes for horses. We have to be very careful if we are going to ban horse abattoirs in Australia that we do not create an even more inhumane death. No one wants to see horses neglected and starved to death on properties.

There are also the financial and environmental factors which make well run humane abattoirs a favourable option for some:

- The cost of having a veterinarian euthanise a horse is considerable (e.g.\$500+)
- The cost of the lethal drug (Lethobarb) has risen considerably in recent years
- The lethal drug does not always ensure a peaceful end to life (some horses struggle and are clearly in pain)
- The cost of burying a horse is considerable and often difficult to arrange (\$250+)

- The environmental impact of lethal chemicals (Lethobarb is a salt and it does not go away) in the soil and potentially in the water ways

Consideration must also be taken into account on what the emotional drain would be on veterinarians if they were required to euthanise all of the horses that are currently sent to the abattoir (approximately 230 per fortnight). No veterinarian attends university in the hope that they will be putting horses down. The emotional drain on veterinarians would be considerable.

3. Should racehorses be an exception?

Whilst most will argue that, if other breeds of horses are able to be slaughtered at abattoirs for their meat, then so should racehorses. The issue is however, a lot more complex than that as there are other factors to take into consideration:

- Racehorses are used for entertainment
- Racehorses earn prizemoney
- Racehorses are gambled on by the public
- Racehorses have worked and therefore they have earned their keep
- Racehorses being sent to the abattoir gives the industry a bad reputation

Australia should have the world's best practices when it comes to racehorse welfare. The call to end racing is growing momentum around the world. Morally, we owe it to these magnificent animals who have trusted and worked for humans, to give them every possible and practical chance to have a long and productive quality of life.

We need to have as many options in place as possible to keep racehorses from ending up in abattoirs.

Once a racehorse finishes racing we should be providing:

- Re-education programs for training of racehorses into second careers
- Free clinics so equestrians can bring their ex-racehorses for lessons
- Sponsorship of events for retired racehorses
- Free euthanasia for genuinely dangerous horses
- Fee euthanasia for horses with injuries which will cause long term suffering

If it is deemed absolutely necessary due to injury, health or dangerous behaviour that a racehorse must be sent to the abattoir then the following should be considered:

- Veterinary certificate supporting the horse being unfit for a second career

Other options of euthanasia should be investigated:

- Regulated qualified butchers with refrigerated trucks who can euthanise on farm/property

The racing industry could sponsor the on-site butchers. The advantages of this option are as follows:

- Eliminate the potential risk of injury to racehorses when transported to abattoir
- Eliminate the trauma of racehorses being handled by inexperienced people at the abattoir
- Eliminate the stress experienced by horses at abattoirs
- Eliminate the cruelty allegations against the racing industry

The actual euthanasia of the horse can then be safely achieved by bullet or gun bolt with minimal stress to the horse.

If racehorses are to be slaughtered then special consideration should be made for the following:

- they have been extensively handled by humans from foaling right throughout their racing career
- they are always transported with dividers between them and another horse
- they have been mostly stabled and even spelled in separate paddocks
- they are a “hot blooded” bred of horse so they are more reactive
- they are easily injured (bruised and cut)
- they tend to be nervous so they can be hesitant to load on transport or through the abattoir processing so they require experienced horse handlers

Important note: Every Thoroughbred trainer I spoke to said that they wished that there was an alternative because they do not like to see horses sent to the abattoir.

4. Are you aware of any gaps or inadequacies in the regulatory arrangements for the welfare of retired racehorses?

The calls to end racing around the world are gaining momentum. The industry needs to change and evolve as social media and mainstream media have us under the microscope. The industry does have to change or it will eventually be closed down. It is up to all who love the sport to participate in effecting change.

Australia should have the world best practices in regards to horse welfare. We are a horse loving nation and therefore we have the opportunity to be a world leader in this area.

There are definitely gaps and inadequacies in the regulatory arrangements for the welfare of retired racehorses.

The areas that really need to be focused on are the following:

- Support for Trainers
- Retirement from Racing Status
- Racehorse Owner Responsibility
- Tracking of Racehorses from conception to death
- Post racing registration
- Accurate Statistical Data on Racehorses

Support for Trainers

There needs to be greater support from Racing Australia and the State Authorities to assist trainers with debt collection to ensure that owners pay their accounts.

In discussions with Thoroughbred trainers the most common reasons for sending a horse to the kill buyer or direct to the abattoir are as follows:

- The Owners have ceased paying for the horses because of poor race performance
- The Owners cease paying for the horse because it is injured
- The Owners are no longer interested in the horse because it has finished racing or failed to perform so they 'give' it to the trainer to find a home or dispose of as they see fit
- The trainer has been unable to rehome the horse
- The trainer has been left with substantial debt by non-paying owners so they attempt to recoup some money by selling the abattoir

There needs to be greater assistance given to trainers to ensure that racehorse owners pay their training accounts in full.

Retirement from Racing Status

- Once a racehorse ceases racing, the Licensed trainer must update the status online, via a Racing Australia stable return and indicate “Retired from Racing”
- The database should enable the trainer to explain why the horse is retired (e.g. under-performing, injured, breathing issue, owners request, retired for breeding or other)
- If the “injured” option is selected, then the trainer must include details of the injury (e.g. sesamoid fracture, vision impaired, bowed tendon, bone chip, slab fracture etc)

Ways to ensure the status of racehorses are update:

- If a racehorse has not been nominated for a race or trial within 12 months a flag will appear on the Trainers stable return requesting information
- If the trainer does not update the status of the horse (e.g. spelling, retired, injured) then they will be restricted from being able to nominate runners

Once a trainer has updated a horse’s status to “retired from racing” this cannot be changed without a veterinarian certificate from a licenced Equine Veterinarian and consultation with the Trainer and Owners of the horse at the time of its retirement from racing.

The decision to reinstate the horse to racing will then be made by the Racing Authority in that state

Racehorse Owner Responsibility

There needs to be an education program rolled out to enlighten racehorse owners of their moral and ethical obligations after the horse retires from racing. Gone are the days when a farmer would breed a few horses send them off to training and then they would go back to the farm after racing. Nowadays the majority of horses are owned by 20 individual shareholders, large syndicates or stud investment syndicates. As a result, the onus on the racehorse owner, to provide for their horse post racing has largely disappeared. We need to implement a program that helps racehorse owners support their horses post racing.

This can be achieved by the following:

- A dedicated section in the Registration of Racehorses - Trainers and Owners Agreement TOR
- Racing Australia email to all owners outlining responsibilities
- State Authorities email to owners outlining responsibilities
- Social Media posts to include education of owners outlining responsibilities
- Trainers explaining to owners the programs available

Tracking Racehorses from conception to death

Given that the Thoroughbred is microchipped and branded as a weanling (approximately 4 to 6 months of age) and its details entered into the Australian

Studbook it should be relatively simple to keep track of each horse for the entirety of its life.

We can currently search the Australian Studbook, to see the date a horse was conceived, foaled and registered for racing name. The horses pedigree can be traced back multiple generations, to one of the three foundation stallions, in the 1700s.

Once the horse enters the Racing Industry the Racing Australia Website keeps a record of the results of every trial and race that the horse entered throughout their career.

The problem of tracking is an issue once the horse retires from racing. Unless a horse goes to stud, all records of the ownership and location, of the horse cease. Whatever happens to that horse, after it is retired from racing, is a mystery which leaves the Racing Industry vulnerable, to false and misleading statements on animal welfare issues.

We require a National Database were racehorses (or in fact all horses) can be traced from conception through to death (regardless of the cause).

The current software of the Australian Studbook and Racing Australia are not adequate to meet the current needs. A new system would have to be designed to implement the changes.

In the last couple of days, I have been made aware of a new software program which could solve all of the tracking issues with all horses across Australia.

Equiprove – A modern knowledge platform, digitalising and serving the Australian Equine Industry

(Please see the attached documents)

Post Racing Registration – Things that should be included

- If the horse is retained by the trainer after racing then the database will be updated to reflect that the Trainer is the new owner
- If the horse is sold or given away the details of the new owner are to be recorded in the database
- The new owner must provide photographic proof of identification (preferably current drivers licence or passport) to authenticate their identity
- Every time a horse is sold or given away the details of the new owner are to be in recorded in the database
- The database should allow the new owner to identify the career the horse will have (e.g. Show Hack, Showjumper, Eventer, Barrel Racer, Polo, paddock companion etc)
- The database should allow for searches on both Racing name and Equestrian name
- Whilst the racing name will always appear the new owner can add any new name if it is changed for Equestrian registration (e.g. race name Pharlapp changed to Red Terror for Show jumping)

- Every 12 months the database should automatically send an email requesting an update of the ownership of the horse so that records are kept up to date
- This means that anyone will be able to enter the name of the horse in the database and see the following:
 - who bred the horse
 - who owned it during its racing career, and
 - every person who has owned the horse since it retired from racing

The collection of owner details throughout the horses' life will make it easier to alert all previous owners, trainer and breeder if a horse has been placed at the sale yards or sent to an abattoir so that it can be rescued.

Accurate Statistical Data Collection

There will be numerous benefits in having a National Database for the Registration of Racehorses throughout the entirety of their lives.

The database should be able to provide accurate statistics on the following:

- Age of retirement of racehorses
- Reasons for retirement
- Second careers after racing
- Numbers euthanised immediately after racing
- Equine pursuits post racing
- Identify which bloodlines are better suited to different equestrian pursuits

Having accurate statistics on what happens to racehorses' post racing will not only protect the integrity of the racing industry but it will also provide knowledge on where the research and development funding should be focused.

- Accurate statistics on which equine pursuits racehorses enter post racing which will help with the sponsorship of events and allocation of funds

5. Are you aware of any gaps or inadequacies in the regulatory arrangements, including transport standards, for managing the welfare of horses in the meat processing industry?

Most abattoir facilities were originally set up for the processing of cattle and sheep. Even though horses, are considered by Biosecurity as livestock, they have very different requirements for handling, moving and yarding compared to cattle and sheep. There are also many risks associated with handling horses that are not relevant to cattle and sheep.

Horses have a multi-faceted social system, which involves both establishing and maintaining, pecking order. As a consequence, they tend to fight and injure less dominant horses. Stallions and colts are more likely to fight each other but mares with foals at foot can be lethal as they will fight to protect their young.

Horses are flight animals which means they are sensitive, reactive, easily alarmed and frightened. The Thoroughbred is considered to be hot blooded meaning that they are more nervous and energetic than other breeds. Thoroughbreds tend to hesitate to load and are more susceptible to bruising and injuring themselves both in transport and at the facility.

New guidelines and procedures should be created specifically for the management and welfare of horses at abattoirs. These guidelines should be created by Equine Veterinarians and Horse Stock Inspectors.

The number one problem with the transport and managing the welfare of horse in the meat processing industry is that there are currently insufficient highly skilled trained horse stock inspectors to enforce the guidelines.

Biosecurity Queensland

Biosecurity Queensland formerly known as Department of Primary Industry (DPI) use to employ permanent and contract stock inspectors who were highly skilled horse people. These stock inspectors would oversee and police, the transportation of horses, the sale yards and the management of horses on properties.

The transportation of horses is largely on an honour system as waybills are no longer required. Horse movement forms are used to transport horses over state boards.

The numbers of stock agents have reduced significantly over the years and those still holding positions are more skilled in the livestock management of cattle and sheep.

Biosecurity Recommendations

- Employ a team of highly skilled horse people as Biosecurity QLD stock inspectors

- Provide the stock inspectors with microchip scanners for the identification of thoroughbreds
- Provide them with the technology to automatically alert Racing Australia if a Thoroughbred is located at the Sale Yards/Abattoirs

Give the stock inspectors the legislated authority to undertake the following:

- Attend Sales Yards and Abattoirs to inspect all horses and seize if necessary
- Attend kill days at abattoirs to inspect and identify thoroughbreds
- Record the identity and location of the people who sent horses to the sale yards and abattoirs by scanning waybills
- Issue automatic breaches and fines if horses are transported incorrectly (e.g. long distances without breaks, without access to feed/water, overcrowding)
- Issue automatic breaches and fines if a Sale Yard or Abattoir neglects, abuses or breaks any of the guidelines
- Seize horses on private property who are neglected and or abused
- Pull over horse transport, inspect horses and check waybills
- Randomly inspect private rehoming facilities to check that thoroughbreds are being well maintained
- Examine ownership paperwork to confirm that records are current and identify any falsification of ownership (e.g. people stating that they have owned the horse for months but in actual fact they obtained the horse the day before and took it straight to the abattoir)

Knackeries

It is unclear as to exactly how many Knackeries are in Queensland because they are not Government licenced or regulated.

It is believed that there is only one in South East Queensland operated by John Bowman at Rathdowney. It is estimated that he would process approximately 20 horses per week. The feedback received from the kill buyers and a highly respected veterinarian is that the conditions at John Bowman's Knackery are "obscene, well below third world, cruel and far worse than any abattoir".

No governance means, that there is no veterinarian present to inspect the condition of horses nor is there any guidelines or procedures to ensure the humane treatment or slaughtering horses. The knackeries supply horse meat for pet food predominately to the greyhound industry.

Recommendations

- Knackeries to be registered and legislated to ensure that the conditions for slaughter are humane
- Impose fines and penalties for unregistered knackeries to ensure that the businesses do not just go underground
- Specific guidelines to be established for the humane treatment of horses at knackeries

- Offer financial incentives if they alert Racing Authorities if a healthy Thoroughbred arrives at the knackery

Abattoirs

The unpleasant and gruesome nature of the job, means that it is difficult for abattoirs, to find suitable staff who have the capacity to be trained. The workers are traditionally from low socio-economic backgrounds, have very little education, often low moral compass and have little chance of seeking employment elsewhere.

The workers are governed by AQIS standards which have been predominantly created for the treatment of other livestock i.e. cattle and sheep.

Abattoir Recommendations

- Install cameras in Abattoirs which can be randomly monitored and used as evidence if breaches are identified
- Racing Queensland to provide the abattoir with a microchip scanner/s to identify Thoroughbreds so accurate records can be kept
- Legislate Training programs for Abattoir senior staff in appropriate animal treatment (e.g. Temple Grandin method)
- Legislate the training of abattoir workers (e.g. Certificates in horse management) in horse handling so that they can identify risks and reduce horse injuries
- Reduce stress, overcrowding and injury by limiting the number of horses placed in a single yard (e.g. either three or five horses based on the size of the yard)
- Reduce the risk of injury to colts and stallions by placing them in separate yards not adjacent to each other or other horses so they cannot fight
- All yards to have water available at all times for horses to access
- If horses are confined to yards for longer than 6 hours they are to be given access to feed (e.g. Hay)

Transportation of Horses

Horses in general require different transportation conditions to other livestock (e.g. cattle and sheep).

Horses transported over long distances are susceptible to Travel Sickness, also known as Shipping Fever or Pleuropneumonia. This is a respiratory disease of the lung tissue and pleural cavity (the space adjacent to the lungs in the chest).

There are several concerns about the transportation of horses:

- Being overcrowded on cattle style (no dividers between horses) transport trucks
- Concerns over horses falling during transport and not being able to get up
- Unfit for travel due to pre-existing injuries

- Travelled over long distances without breaks
- Unload, yarded and reload in inadequate and unsafe facilities during travel breaks
- Being given inadequate access to feed and water during travel breaks
- Inexperienced truck drivers with working with horses
- Wild, feral and unbroken horses being transported with well-handled horses

Recommendations

- Electronic or paper Waybills that identify the following:
 - Horse breeds, brands and microchips
 - Collection point – exactly where horses are coming from to the sales
 - Collection date - to ensure horses do not travel long periods
 - Time and place of rest periods
- Registered rest point facilities for horses coming from interstate or North Queensland
- Electronic registering via the waybill of horses having been rested
- Wild horses (Brumbies and Feral horses) to be processed on separate days to other domesticated horses (e.g. racehorses, recreational and breeding horses) to reduce stress to domesticated horses
- Wild horses may be transported on cattle style trucks (grouped in together)
- Racehorses, performance and recreational horses to be transported in trucks or horse floats with dividers separating them to reduce injury and stress
- Satellite tracking devices should be mandatory on all horse transport trucks to ensure that horses are given adequate breaks on long distance travel

6. If the inquiry were to recommend a rehoming program for retired racehorses in Queensland, what elements should it possess to deliver greatest benefit, and how should it be funded?

The industry needs to be seen to be providing sustainable homes for racehorses once they retire from racing. The public perception is that once a racehorse no longer races, they are perceived as wastage, by the racing industry. We have a moral obligation to provide racehorses with an opportunity to have a second career.

Many owners and trainers already find suitable homes for their retired racehorses post racing. Those people already rehoming horses should continue as business as usual.

In the past the problems have arisen from our lack of traceability once the horse has been rehomed. The National Database providing the ability to trace racehorses from birth to death should greatly improve this situation.

When a racehorse retires from racing they usually will fall into one of the following categories:

- Able to be re-educated - suitable for other equestrian disciplines (e.g. show jumping, dressage, showing etc)
- Requiring Rehabilitation - temporarily unsound physically and/or mentally that need sufficient time and/or veterinary care before they can be re-educated
- Permanently Unsound – suitable for Therapy or as a companion - not suitable for riding
- Dangerous – Temperament issues which make them unsuitable for rehoming

Rehoming Program

Whilst it would be beneficial to have a Racing Facility specifically for the re-education and spelling of Thoroughbreds post career it will be very costly.

There is however one solution the Riding for the Disabled facility at Burpengary is suitable and currently not being utilised.

Long term it would be ideal if land or properties were bequeathed to the Racing Welfare Fund.

The interim solution is to have qualified accredited racehorse re-educators who are licenced with Racing Queensland.

Their contact details and curriculum vitae can then be placed on the welfare page so that everyone can see the transparency of their appointment to the role.

It is important that we have racehorse re-educators who are able to educate horses for different disciplines (e.g. dressage, showjumping, eventing, barrel racing etc.)

Ideally racehorses will have a mandatory six-week spell after racing to mentally and physically relax before commencing re-educated

Accreditation of Racehorse Re-educators

The racehorse re-educators will have to go through a process to be licenced:

- Pay a fee to be licensed with Racing Queensland (similar to track riders etc)
- Submit an application with the following information:
 - Current Performance history
 - Length of time in the equestrian industry
 - Evidence of racehorses re-educated
 - Recommendations and references
 - Video of them so they can be assessed riding and handling
 - What they plan to feed and exercise programs for the horse

Once the application has been received the next step will be

- Inspection of facilities to ascertain if they have any or all of the following:
 - safe place to ride
 - Covered or uncovered arena
 - round yard
 - access to trails and offsite outings (e.g. pony club, shows, events etc)

Once accredited Racehorse re-educators will have to submit to random facility inspections and checks on the welfare of the horses in their care.

There should also be a system whereby the racehorse re-educators have to send video progress reports:

- The ridden progress with the horse
- That the weight and condition level of the horse is maintained or improving
- That general care is being taken of the horse

How will the rehoming program work

- Once the horse is retired from racing, they should be given a mandatory (6) six-week spell, paid for upfront by the owners of the horse (42 days @ \$30 per day = \$1260)
- When a racehorse retires from racing the trainer should be able to advise which equestrian discipline/s would best suit the horse
- The horse will then be sent to a Licensed Accredited Racehorse Re-Educator for basic training for an (8) eight-week period (56 days @ \$50 per day = \$2800)
- The re-educators would be paid a daily rate and ideally this would be paid by the owners of the racehorse
- The re-educator would have to demonstrate the following:
 - Walk, trot, canter
 - Basic simple changes
 - Trialled over small jumps
 - Preferably outings to pony club or a show etc
- If at the conclusion of the eight weeks the horse is not ready for rehoming then the re-educator can apply for additional time up to a period of 8 weeks (this would be covered by the Welfare Program)

- As discussed previously the re-educator will have to submit regular video updates on the progress of the horse
- Alternatively, the whole process could be 12 weeks and the owners pay half and the Welfare Fund covers the other half

Recommendations

- At the point of Racehorse Registration, a bond payment to be paid by racehorse owners (retained by Racing Australia) to cover the cost of a six-week spell for racehorses once they are retired from racing
- The Mounted Police could become an accredited trainer
- The Equestrian Australia Association could assist with the selection of re-educators
- The Equestrian Australia Association can help devise a program for the re-education of a racehorse
- At the conclusion of the program the horse is assessed for suitability for different disciplines
- is made and videos of the horse ridden, unsaddled etc are taken
- The horse is then advertised for sale on the Racing Australia national database
- Auctions can be held bi-monthly were the former racehorses are taken to a facility, buyers can inspect, organise vet inspections, see the horses ridden and purchase at auction
- A minimum price of \$2000 will be accepted to create a market for these horses
- The re-educators will receive a small commission on the sale price to encourage them to educate and maintain the horse in the best possible way
- Re-educators will have a quota of horses so they will not be able to receive another horse until they have sold the others
- If the re-educator see potential in the horse and wants to purchase that is acceptable
- Proceeds of the sale are to be forwarded to the Welfare Fund and documented on the Racing Australia website
- Equine Veterinarians must be registered with the Welfare Fund and listed on the Racing Australia website
- Veterinary costs, shoeing, dentistry and worming are to be paid for by the Welfare Fund

Important:

Racehorse Trainers and owners can contact the re-educators directly and cover the costs themselves if they have a horse that is suitable for retraining.

Equestrians can also contact the OTTB educators when they are looking for a new horse.

Therapy Horses

Horses can play a vital role in therapy and assistance for people with disabilities.

- Any horse deemed too unsound for riding can be assessed for suitability as therapy horse and sent to accredited trainers for education
- Establishment of metropolitan, provincial and country Equine Therapy Facilities
- Prisoners and/or juvenile offenders in detention facilities could be utilised as workers to clean up, feed and water
- There are organisations that could contribute to the costs of the facilities if they were given access to therapy horses:
 - Corporate training and team building
 - PTSD – Australian Defence force military
 - Special learning
 - Headspace
 - Beyond Blue
 - Autism foundation
 - Canteen
 - Prisoner/juvenile detention programs for the rehabilitation of offenders

Dangerous Horses

There will be horses which are deemed too dangerous for rehoming. However, one person may consider a horse to be too dangerous but another trainer might be able to solve the issues and train the horse to a satisfactory level.

- Dangerous horses to be assessed by two accredited re-educators
- Dangerous horses to be assessed by a Racing Australia Equine veterinarian
- All previous owners, trainer and breeder given the option to rescue
- The last resort is that the horse can be humanely euthanised

Incentives to encourage Rehoming of Racehorses

With the increased popularity of breeding performance horses (e.g. warmbloods, stock horses, etc) we have seen a decline in the interest for equestrians to taken on Off Track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs).

We need to create a demand for OTTB and this can be done in a number of ways:

- Providing financial incentives (i.e. Prizemoney) for OTTBs competition instead of just ribbons
- Establishing thoroughbred only competitions
- Having OTTBs properly re-educated after racing

Equestrian Competitions

- Sponsorship of Thoroughbred only competitions across a variety of disciplines with Prizemoney from the Welfare Fund and corporate sponsorship

- Show jumping
 - Eventing
 - Dressage
 - Barrel Racing
 - Polo
 - Show Horse
 - Hunter Classes
-
- Sponsorship of Thoroughbred only classes at major competitions with Prizemoney from the Welfare Fund and corporate sponsorship
 - Increased prizemoney for Thoroughbreds if they win or place in standard competitions
 - Create a demand for seasoned racehorses by developing classes at competitions for OTTBs that have had greater than 40, 60, 80 starts

Pony Clubs

- Forge an alliance between the OTTB educators and the state pony clubs and their associations
- Run Pony Club level events for OTTBs
- Create a market for OTTB adult pony clubbers

Racing Clubs

- Utilise the infield of racetracks e.g. Doomben for equestrian competitions

Thoroughbred Sport Horse Association (TSHA)

- This group has already developed events so they would be ideal to utilise their expertise

Asian Market

- Use Aushorse to develop a market for re-educated racehorses for the sport horse market in Asia
- The sport horse market in China is growing at 400% and they are currently purchasing horses from Europe and Hong Kong

Funding of the Welfare Program

There are many areas of the community that profit from Racing and given that the Welfare Programs will be expensive we need to investigate all areas of opportunity:

Industry Contributions

Percentage of all the following:

- Racing prizemoney
- Gambling turnover
- Sales Company turnover (e.g. Inglis, Magic Millions and online sales)
- Racing Television rights
- Syndication companies
- Stallion service fees for each confirmed pregnancy
- Race Clubs (Metropolitan & Provincial)
 - Membership fees
 - Function Packages
 - General Admission

Sponsorship

- Corporate
- Studs
- Trainers
- Feed companies
- Saddlery and Tack companies
- Racehorse Transport companies

Donations

Stand-alone charitable Fundraising Events can be held for the Racehorse Welfare Fund. Additionally, we can request that the clubs who are racing focused also contribute and raise funds for racehorses welfare:

- Carbine Club
- Bernborough Club

- Kingston Town Club
- Ladies in Racing
- Thoroughbred Girls
- Women in Racing

Racehorse Welfare Fund Donation boxes (similar to the Guide Dogs) to be placed in the following areas:

- Race Clubs
- TABs
- Casinos
- Hotels/Venues where Gambling is available

On major race days having volunteers go around the racecourse asking for donations to the Welfare Fund (e.g. like the Surf Lifesavers do)



equiprove is a modern knowledge platform, designed to support the Australian Equine Industry, by providing fast and easy access to secure reliable information about horses, riders, owners, breeders, service providers, events and venues. equiprove will be the trusted foundation for horse provenance, rider safety and will support biosecurity.

At its core, equiprove™, captures and stores data, accessed or drawn from many sources, creating a digital history of the horse and events. This data is authenticated, verified and non-repudiable. Importantly, equiprove does not own the data. We're not asking the industry and owners to give up their data to a centralised database. equiprove will store its users' data and license its release and use as appropriate. This ground-breaking concept is a key feature as, unlike traditional systems - especially centralised data bases - equiprove is underpinned with respect for the data owner.

equiprove will provide a smooth and efficient interface for users to enter data, access information and seamlessly populate data required for day to day activities.

For example, an equestrian will be able to view a profile of all their horses' activities and manage their profile. They will also be able to automatically transfer data, as needed, for day to day activities and regulatory requirements.

equiprove brings significant benefits to the Australian Equine Industry including:

- Transparency of each life stage of a horse including before, during and after any competition or racing based career. equiprove allows the industry to track and trace, providing evidence of a horse's welfare at any point in their care.
- Improved confidence in sales transactions, allowing buyers greater insight into the relevant history and behaviours of a potential new horse. This in turn will support rider safety by avoiding poorly matched riders to horses.
- Greater capability for pre-emptive, responsive and holistic responses to equine health issues due to an enhanced understanding of movements, disease location and spread.
- Industry insight, from breeders to buyers, to government policy makers and academic institutions.

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