

The **Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses** (CPR) was founded in 2008. The Coalition is currently made up of 6 leading animal rights organisations across 5 states in Australia.

If you would like to be involved with this campaign, contact us at enquiries@horseracingkills.com or contact the coalition member in your state.



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If you would like to support us with a donation, please send cheque or money order to P.O. Box 163 South Melbourne 3205 VIC made payable to "Coalition For The Protection of Racehorses" or donate online via our website HorseRacingKills.com

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THE RACE IS ON BUT THE HORSES NEVER WIN

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Beneath its glamorous façade, horse racing is a ruthless commercial industry motivated by financial gain and prestige. The fashion, champagne, gambling and roses may excite the crowd but it's no fun for the horses who are running for their lives. Scratch the surface of the horse racing industry and it's a sure bet you'll find suffering, pain and animal abuse.



THE REALITY

Thoroughbreds are intelligent and powerful animals whose entire lives are a series of unrelenting and dangerous challenges. In the end, most of them will either die on the course, in training, or be killed because they are no longer profitable. This sad and unconscionable reality is hidden behind a veil of secrecy and shame.

HAVE YOU GOT MAKYBE DIVA SYNDROME?



Let's face it. If you've ever considered buying a racehorse or a share in a racehorse, you would do it hoping that your horse was going to be the next Makybe Diva or Black Caviar.

WHY?

The racing industry has a well oiled marketing machine aimed at exploiting the Makybe Diva Syndrome. Everybody wants to be a winner, to get rich quick and to have a glam lifestyle. Horse racing supposedly offers all of this and more, but how often does it deliver?

SOME REALITIES TO CONSIDER:

- Of the many thousands of horses that are bred for racing each year, only about 30% will run one or more races (so don't be surprised if your horse never sees a racetrack)
- Maintaining a racehorse costs on average more than \$25,000 per annum
- Less than 2% of horses earn enough money to cover costs
- Of the 30,000 or more horses that do race each year, approximately 75% earn less than \$10,000. Of those 40% earning nothing at all
- The average racing career is less than 3 years

AND THEY LOVE TO RACE.... DON'T THEY?

The racing industry wants you to believe that horses love to race and that the whip doesn't hurt. On what basis are these claims made? Horses are forced to race as a result of a training regime that gives them no other option.

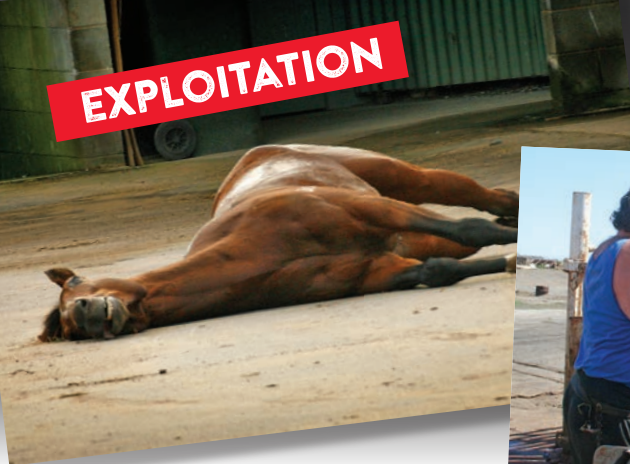
Once your horse has finished racing it will, in nearly all cases, commence a downward spiral ending at the slaughterhouse or knacker. There is no grassy paddock where they are sent to live out the rest of their lives, unless of course you choose to look after the horse for the next 20 years yourself (at a cost of around \$5000 per year). So if you care about horses and love money, don't succumb to the Makybe Diva Syndrome. Hang on to that cash and leave horse racing to the mugs.

HORSERACING through the eyes of the horse

ENTERTAINMENT OR JUST PLAIN CRUEL?



EXPLOITATION



THE SUFFERING



WASTAGE



THE DANGER



WASTAGE AND OVERBREEDING

The Australian Racing Industry breeds approximately **14,000 racehorses every year**. Many thousands of these will simply not have the ability or temperament for racing and will be discarded.

For the racehorses who do make it to the track, only a very small percentage will be successful. The majority of these horses will also suffer the same fate as the horses who don't make it to the track once their racing careers are over.

SO WHAT HAPPENS TO EX-RACEHORSES?

The majority of ex-racehorses have very little commercial value. Even though an increasing number of trainers are seeking homes for their retired racehorses, most will end up being killed for dog food or human consumption.

For the mares and stallions who are used for breeding, once their breeding careers are over, they are likely to suffer the same fate.

Mares are usually bred from each year which means they will be pregnant for 90% of their lives. Only a select few stallions with successful bloodlines are used.

For the horses who are spared the knacker's bullet, they will require in nearly all cases, rehabilitation and re-training which can take months or even years.

THE SOLUTION – A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR RACEHORSES!

The 'Sport of Kings' turns over billions of dollars each year on the back of the thoroughbred racehorse, yet it has no retirement plan. In August of 2013 the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses (CPR) submitted a re-homing

proposal to the Australian Racing Board which involved **just 1% of all betting turnover going towards a retirement plan for racehorses**, however it was categorically rejected.

CPR believes that every racehorse deserves the opportunity to be rehabilitated, retrained and re-homed and will continue to fight for their most basic right, to live out the rest of their lives.

For more information go to

www.horseracingkills.com/campaigns/racehorse-retirement-plan/

TWO YEAR OLD RACING - RACED TOO YOUNG!

Horses are not skeletally mature until they are around five years of age. Despite this, many horses are raced at just 2 years old. Why? Because owners want a return on their investment as soon as possible.

Young horses risk serious injury each time they are made to run at high speeds, as it pre-disposes them to cumulative injuries and increases their chances of breakdowns in years to come.

Two year old horses start their training as young as 18 months of age. At such a young age, many will break down and disappear even before they run a single race.



"TWO YEAR OLDS, AS WE KNOW, CAN BE HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW!"

GAI WATERHOUSE
Sydney Morning Herald,
21st January 2013

THE WHIP

Section 9 of Victoria's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act defines 'cruelty' as "(1) A person who (a) overrides, overdrives, overworks, abuses, beats, worries, torments or terrifies an animal; commits an act of cruelty".

It is arguable that every time a horse is whipped in a horse race, the law is being broken.

The purpose of the whip is to make the horses run faster or to force the animal to continue running despite being exhausted. Whipping a horse inflicts physical and psychological pain and increases the likelihood of injury.

Professor Paul McGreevy, Faculty of Veterinary Science at Sydney University: "If flogging a dead horse is futile, flogging a tired horse is worse still since animals feel the pain while unable to respond." - The Australian July 5, 2008.

New whip rules were introduced in 2009 and again in 2015 to curb the use of whips. Whilst this is a positive step, breaches of the whip rules are often overlooked and the penalties imposed insignificant to the point that they are not a deterrent.

CPR believes that horse racing can survive and thrive without the use of cruel whips. There would still be winners, losers and place-getters and it would rid the sport of the ugly sight of seeing a horse beaten for no legitimate reason.

Norway banned the use of whips in horse racing in 1982. Harness Racing Australia banned the use of whips in harness racing in 2017.

JUMPS RACING

Jumps racing is intrinsically dangerous and cruel to horses. It is the combination of jumping and racing that cannot be made safe especially when a horse is becoming fatigued.

Jumps racing proponents argue that jumps racing prolongs the life of a racehorse who would otherwise be sent to slaughter. This however is not an argument to support jumps racing but an indictment on an industry that uses horses as disposable objects.

In November 2009, Racing Victoria Ltd. (RVL) announced that 2010 would be the last season of jumps racing in the state due to the continuing high rate of falls and fatalities. Seven weeks later under pressure from the pro-jumps lobby, it was reinstated.

Jumps racing is statistically 20 times more dangerous than flat racing and the only remedy for jumps racing is for it to be banned. Furthermore, jumps racing is the only sport whose governing body has an acceptable death rate for its competitors.

RACEHORSES IN TRAINING

- Most horses in training are confined to a stall for up to 22 hours per day. As a result of an unnatural feeding regime, 90% of racehorses suffer from ulcers. Horses control their stomach acids by continually grazing, which they are unable to do when confined to a stall.
- 90% suffer from bleeding in the lungs (Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage) due to over exertion during training and racing.
- Sometimes in race training, 'Jiggers' (electric shocks) are used in conjunction with other stimuli such as blinkers. This cruel conditioning ensures that on race day, horses associate the stimulus with electric shocks and run faster out of fear.
- Drug abuse is also a common practice, either through the use of illegal pharmaceuticals or the misuse of legally accepted drugs. New drugs are constantly being discovered which makes it extremely difficult to detect.