



DEATH WATCH REPORT 2016

The Death Watch Report 2016 summarises all on-track deaths of racehorses around Australia over the past 12 months and is the third annual report to be produced by the ***Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses (CPR)***.

This report was initiated because the racing industry does not collate and publish specific information relating to on course horse deaths themselves. From the period 1st of August 2015 to 31st of July 2016, CPR monitored every race Australia wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses on Australian racetracks.

CPR recorded the deaths of 132 horses on tracks around Australia this year, that's 1 horse every 2.8 days. This is an increase from last year (2015) where 112 horses were killed, and is consistent with CPR's first report in 2014 where 133 horses were killed.

In addition to the 132 horses killed on racetracks in the last 12 months, CPR believes that a large percentage of horses die every year from racing related injuries off track in training or they are killed prematurely when they are no longer commercially viable.

The 132 horses that died on track during this period represent 0.37% of the 36,000 horses racing each year. Many thousands more disappear or cycle out of the racing industry, also known as *wastage*.



Image: Cliff's Dream being euthanised during the 2016 Warrnambool jumps carnival.

KEY FINDINGS

- 132 horses killed on track for a number of reasons most commonly for catastrophic front limb injury (63)
- On average one horse will die on Australian racetracks every 2.8 days
- Five horses collapsed and died
- 11 horses died from cardiac causes
- The state with the highest recorded deaths was NSW (58) followed by VIC (33)
- The most dangerous age for a racehorse was 5 years old
- 60 of the 132 horses that were killed had been raced as a 2 year old
- The most lethal tracks in Australia were Rosehill Gardens (NSW), where 6 horses died and Alice Springs (NT), where 5 horses died

SOURCES OF DATA

Data for the CPR Death Watch Report has been gathered from each state's official stewards reports, which are published on the individual state websites, as well as the Australian Racing Fact Book and various media outlets.



Image: Red Cadeaux is covered by the infamous green screen during the 2015 Melbourne Cup after sustaining injury. He died two weeks later (via Getty Images)

LETHAL COURSES

The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses initial 2014 Death Watch Report showed the two most lethal courses to be situated in QLD. This year the most lethal course is Rosehill Gardens in NSW the home of the famous 2-year-old race The Golden Slipper with 6 fatalities, followed by Alice Springs in the NT, which had 5 fatalities.

TRACK	RACEHORSE	CAUSE OF DEATH
Rosehill Gardens	Skip Course	Broke down badly near fore leg
Rosehill Gardens	Stimac	Two fractured sesamoid bones and soft tissue injury to near foreleg
Rosehill Gardens	Tales of Grimm	Broke down badly in near fore leg
Rosehill Gardens	Dark Jasper	Pulmonary oedema, congestion and haemorrhage
Rosehill Gardens	Penny Class	Fractured off hind pastern
Rosehill Gardens	Can Be Bossy	Catastrophic injury near fore leg
Alice Springs	Passage Rock	Suspensory ligament injury to near side fore leg
Alice Springs	Miss Written	Injury to off side hock
Alice Springs	Ferris	Fractured near side sesamoid
Alice Springs	Captain Angry	Ruptured corda tendinae (heart failure)
Alice Springs	Mondo Miss	Fractured Pelvis

CAUSES OF DEATH

Of the 132 horses that died on track, by far the most common cause of death was catastrophic front limb injury with 63 occurrences.

Catastrophic hind limb injury was the second leading cause of death with 20 instances.

Non-traumatic causes of death were mostly of cardiac origin, with 16 horse deaths listed as cardiac or “collapsed and died,” often as a result of heart failure.

Image: Foals await slaughter at a Melbourne knackery



CASE STUDIES

RED CADEUAX – 2015 MELBOURNE CUP

Red Cadeaux, the favourite in the 2015 Melbourne Cup suffered a break in his left foreleg and was euthanised some weeks after sustaining the injury. Red Cadeaux was the fourth horse to be killed in 3 years of the Melbourne Cup, with Verema being killed in 2013 and Admire Rakti and Araldo killed in 2014.

FIELDMASTER – CRANBOURNE HURDLE TRIAL

Fieldmaster was the first jumps racing fatality of the 2016 season, and an example of the Victorian racehorses who die in trial and go unreported. Had it not been for CPR fieldworkers being present on the day of the trials, his death would have gone unknown and unnoticed, as deaths in trials are not reported in Victorian stewards reports.

UNNAMED FILLY – CLARENDON FLAT TRIAL

A 2-year-old filly was killed during training at Clarendon racetrack in NSW, she suffered a displaced fracture to the nearside pelvis. While her death went reported, most other states do not release this information about unnamed, unraced horses.



Image: Fieldmaster is euthanised at the Cranbourne Training Complex after breaking down during a jumps racing trial.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Table 1 – Deaths by State and Discipline

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	NT	TAS	ACT	TOTAL
Flat	39	28	19	5	3	8	3	1	106
Flat - trial	3				1				4
Steeple		1							1
Hurdle		2							2
Jumps trial		1							1
Track work	16	1	1						18
Total	58	33	20	5	4	8	3	1	132

Table 2 - Deaths by Age

Age	Number of deaths
2	7
3	8
4	28
5	31
6	17
7	19
8	8
9	4
10	4
11	3
12	1
Unknown	2

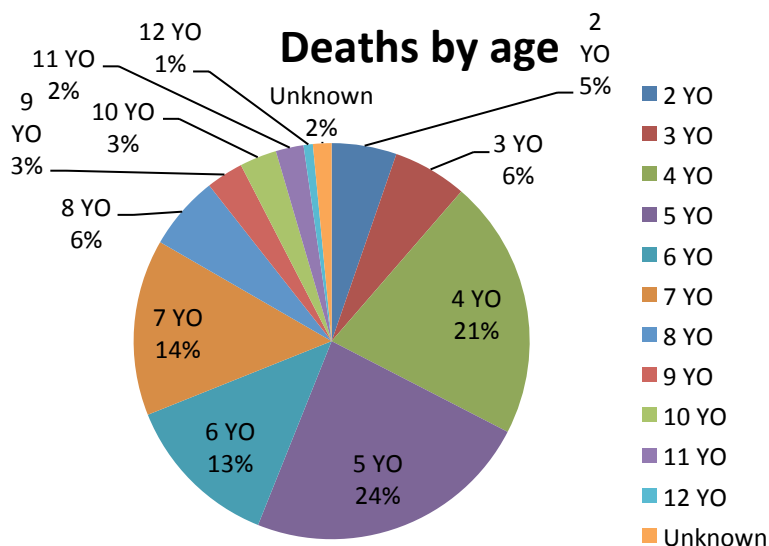
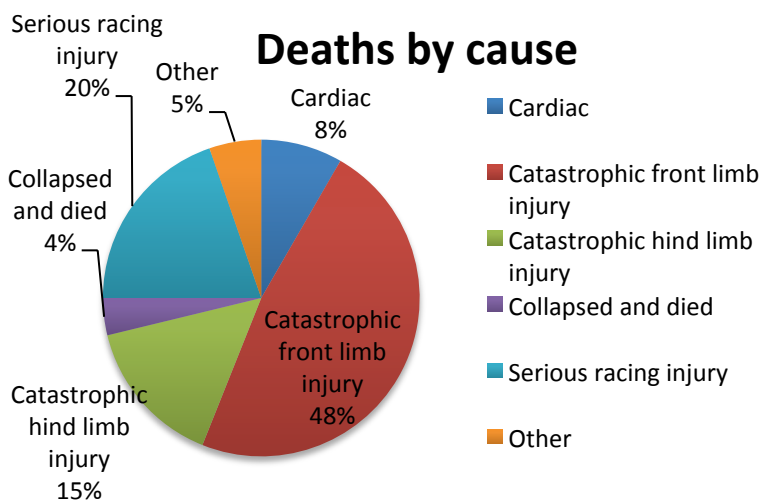


Table 3 – Deaths by cause

Cause of death	Number of deaths
Cardiac	11
Catastrophic front limb injury	63
Catastrophic hind limb injury	20
Collapsed and died	5
Serious racing injury	26
Other	7



IN MEMORIAM – FALLEN RACEHORSES

FROM 1 AUGUST 2015 TO 31 JULY 2016

Adynata	Unnamed	Atomic Blaze
Ventriloquist	Nip of Time	Dame Judarius
Diamond Daze	The Deestructor	Got To Be Dancing
Grey Rena	Little Fighter	Lily My Girl
Unnamed	Courser	On The Other Hand
Stevie Boy	Three Rondavels	Grande Filou
Burbero	Grappa Brandy	Unnamed Gelding
Sanasana	Sooner Or Later	Deceptive
Reformatsky	Our Voodoo Prince	Street Serenade
Alexstrsza	Settler's Joy	Shalimar Choice
Stimac	Lord Esprit	Oncebittentwiceshy
We Leica Red	Freedom Son	Noisy Nick
Bianca Star	Bish 'N' Borg	Sharknado
Unnamed	Trading Star	Shimoda
Jokes Aseide	Pollyata	Neuroblast
Holy Lord	Unnamed	Ussandu
Seafight	Man Of Stealth	Fieldmaster
Danewin Winning	Asadauskatie	Nona Saal's Girl
Dakabee	Dom Henrique	Cliffs Dream
Miss Rapidash	Castlemagne King	Tuscan Fire
Mr Wrecker	Cartel Queen	Grand Proposal
Madam Maher	Catseye Magic	Red Corner
Rabbuka	Motivado	Visual Motif
Penny Class	Happy Jack	Ferris
Beau Brock	Mondo Miss	Harissa
Miss Ella Hawk	Fortune Fish	Skip Course
Capricious Spirit	Vanrippa	Bazza's Boy
Babazaar	Sir Hagrid	Conferring
Great Heart	Quick Strike	Chichester
To Cry For	Bass Coast	United Strategy
I'm Making A Clang	Black Viper	Yancha Boy
Canaden	Miss Royale	Fascade
Special Millie	Unnamed	Running Bull
Merry Yeoman	Pure Karma	Bless This Day
Star Viking	Lady Dundee	Tainted Love
Dark Jasper	Eireini	Sweet Silhouette
Palzago	Can Be Bossy	Steep
Kasiano Lad	Redominanced	Captain Angry
Jayelem	Charging Raine	Ultimate Pleasure
Red Cadeaux	Gatalistic	Passage Rock
Modrich	Excelebration-Saucy Nell	Too Much Choice
Miss Written	Hurricane Andy	Game Breaker
Sequelene	Theracian	Code Noir
Freeport	Usurper	Tales of Grimm