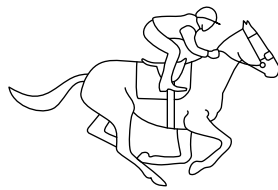


DEATH WATCH

REPORT 2021



Prepared by the
**Coalition for the
Protection of Racehorses**



In Memoriam



The 149 fallen racehorses

August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021

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ABOUT

Deathwatch Report 2021 is the eighth annual report that summarises all reported on-track deaths of racehorses around Australia over the past twelve months. Research and production are by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

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 August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2021 (the 'racing year'), we have monitored every race Australia-wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses on Australian racetracks.

The 2020-2021 death toll

The toll for this racing year is **149 horses** – **thirty-three more** than last year.

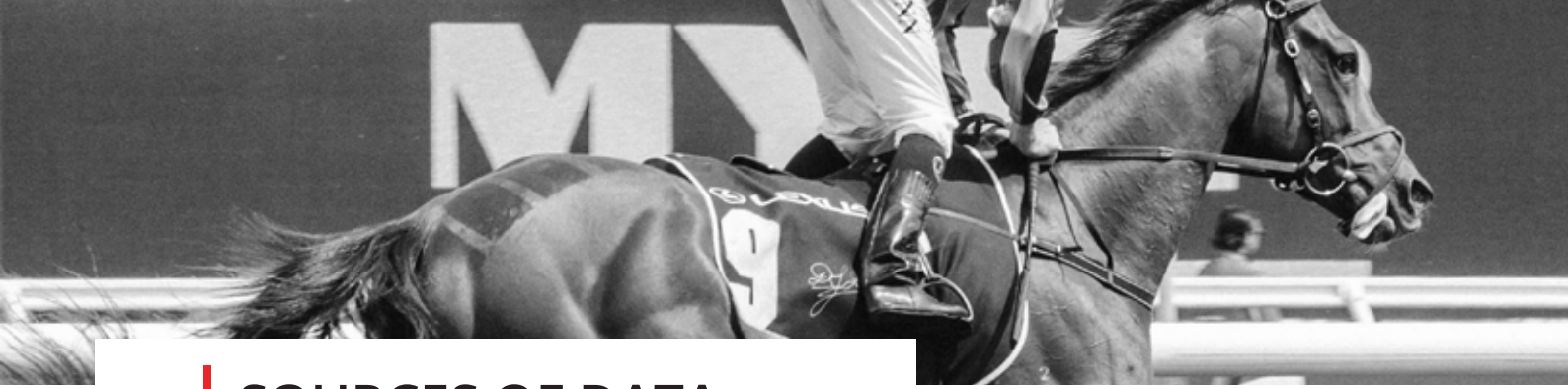


2020

2021

IN ADDITION TO THESE DEATHS

Many **thousands of horses die every year** from racing-related injuries off the track after being raced, in training, or are killed prematurely when they are no longer commercially viable, referred to as "wastage" by the racing industry.



SOURCES OF DATA + KEY FINDINGS

Data for the Deathwatch Report has been gathered from each state's official stewards' reports, which are published on the individual state websites, and various media outlets.

Additional data specific to NSW deaths has also been provided to us this year via a Government Information Public Access (GIPA) application made by the Office of Mark Pearson of the Animal Justice Party NSW. **More details regarding this are provided on page 11.**

It is important to note that most states do not report any deaths that occur while training or in trials. It is also important to note that official stewards' reports are not required to list the deaths of horses caused by on-track injuries if the horse is removed from the track on race day and killed in the days or weeks following. **From this, it can be drawn that if these deaths were disclosed, the total number of recorded deaths would be far higher.**

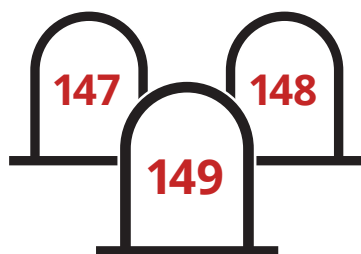
It is disappointing to also note that the racing industry has become increasingly pro-active in their attempts to hide deaths caused by racing-related injuries.

Refusing to return phone and email enquiries regarding the status of horses, a continuation of crafty race replay editing, and an increase in removing horses from the track to kill them behind the scenes, have been noted in our review of the 2020-21 racing year deaths. We have also received anecdotal evidence of stewards failing to update the occurrence of deaths in their race day reports, when they are fully aware a horse has been killed behind the scenes before the time of publishing those reports.

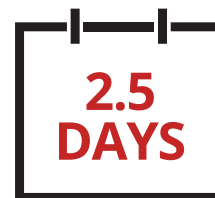
Such bold attempts to hide the reality of racing from the public further highlights the importance of whistleblowers from within the industry and the general public. We encourage anyone with information that may be of interest to us to **please make a report at <https://horseracingkills.com/take-action/equileaks/> or contact us directly via phone or email.** Anonymity is guaranteed.



**FROM WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED
IT IS CONFIRMED THAT AT THE VERY LEAST:**

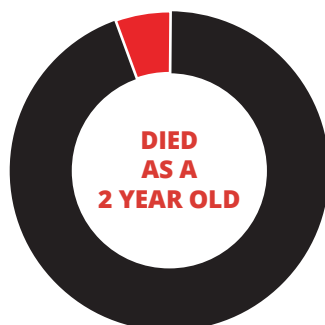


149 THOROUGHBRED HORSES WERE
KILLED IN RACING (OR SOON AFTER
RACING); MOST COMMONLY FROM
CATASTROPHIC FRONT LIMB INJURY

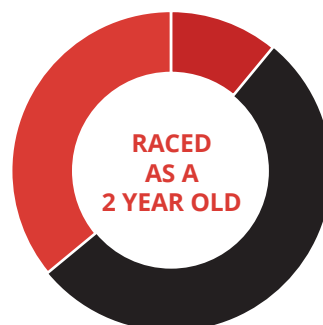


ON AVERAGE AT LEAST ONE HORSE
WILL DIE ON AN AUSTRALIAN RACE
TRACK EVERY 2.5 DAYS

Of the 149 horses that were reported to have died, **the most prevalent cause of death was catastrophic front limb injury with forty-one occurrences**. Catastrophic hind limb injuries were the second leading cause of death with eighteen occurrences. Other causes of death were massive bleeds, cardiac causes, shoulder injury, pelvis injury, infection developed from injury, and head trauma.



**9 HORSES WERE TWO
WHEN THEY DIED**



**53 OF THE HORSES THAT
WERE KILLED HAD BEEN
RACED AS TWO-YEAR-OLDS**



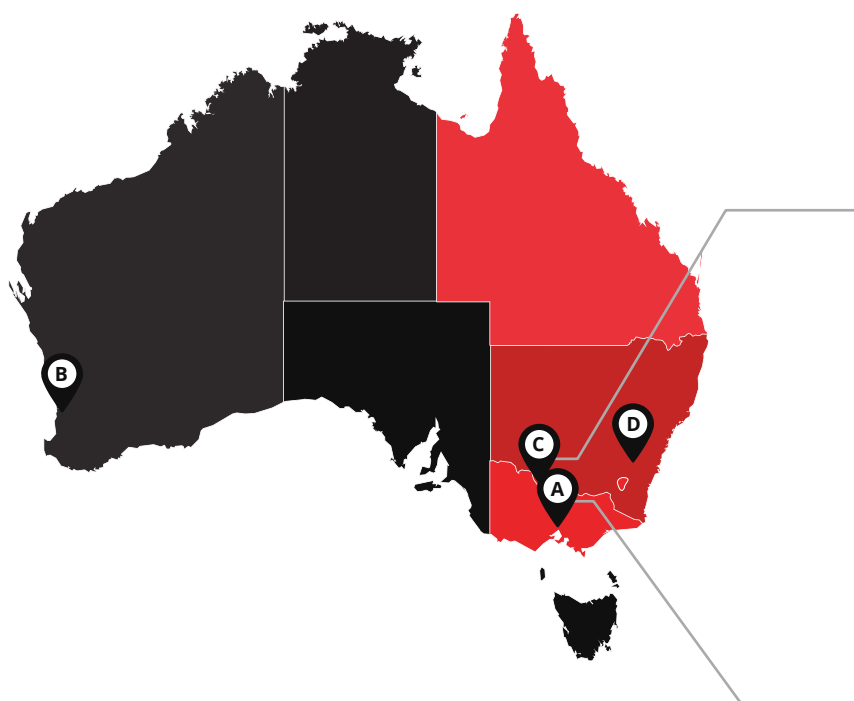
HIGHEST RECORDED DEATHS BY STATE:

1. New South Wales
2. Victoria
3. Queensland

MOST LETHAL TRACKS IN AUSTRALIA:

- A. Flemington
- B. Belmont
- C. Swan Hill
- D. Goulburn

Four deaths occurred
on each track



Zipitsweetie
Killed at Swan Hill
16.2.2021

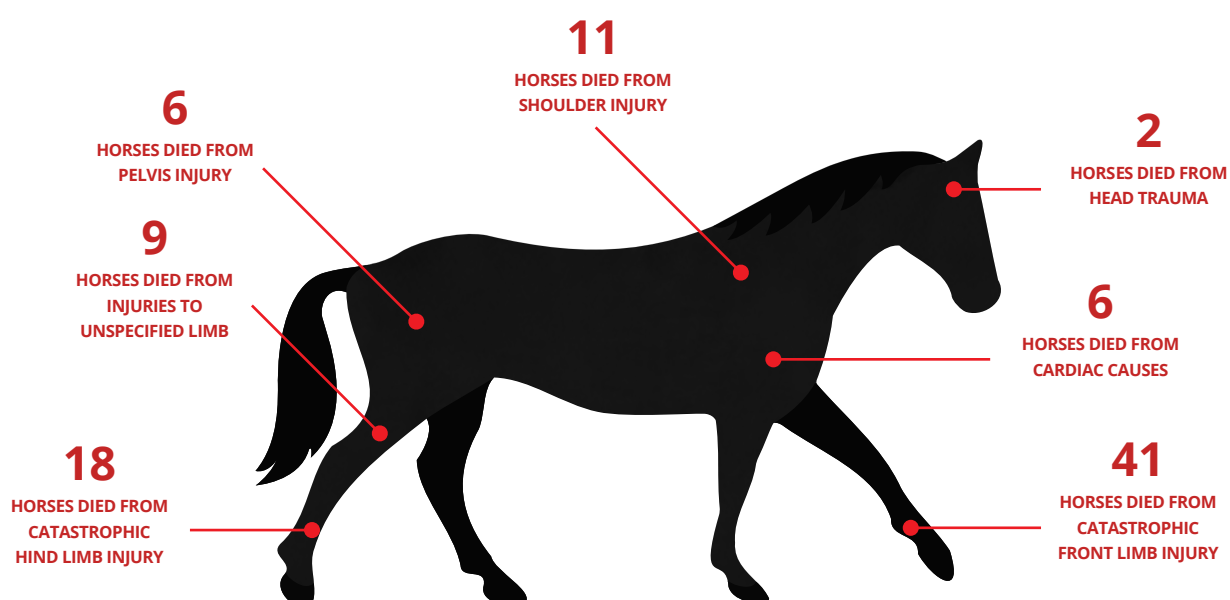


Gatting
Killed at Flemington
12.9.2020

Two of the horses killed on Australia's most lethal tracks in 2021 were 4 year old *Zipitsweetie* and 6 year old *Gatting*.



CAUSES OF DEATHS



5
HORSES DIED FROM
EXERCISE-INDUCED
BLEEDS

1
HORSE DIED FROM
AN INTERNAL
HAEMORRHAGE
SUSTAINED FROM A FALL

1
HORSE DIED FROM
A POST INJURY
INFECTION

49
HORSES DIED FROM
UNKNOWN
CAUSES*

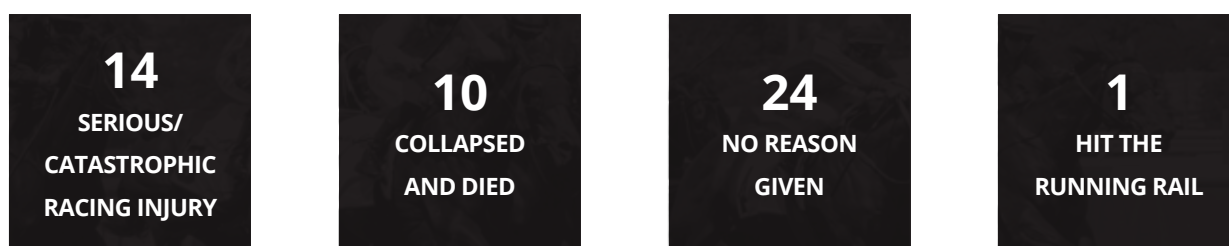
*Thirty-four causes of death were not clarified in stewards reports and fifteen were additional NSW deaths found via the GIPA application where the cause of death was not provided.



Of the thirty-four horses whose cause of death is not clarified in official stewards' reports, **twenty were from Victorian racetracks**. Victoria reported a total of thirty-two deaths, meaning **Victorian stewards only disclosed the cause of death in their reporting twelve times**.

SUBCATEGORY OF UNKNOWN CAUSES

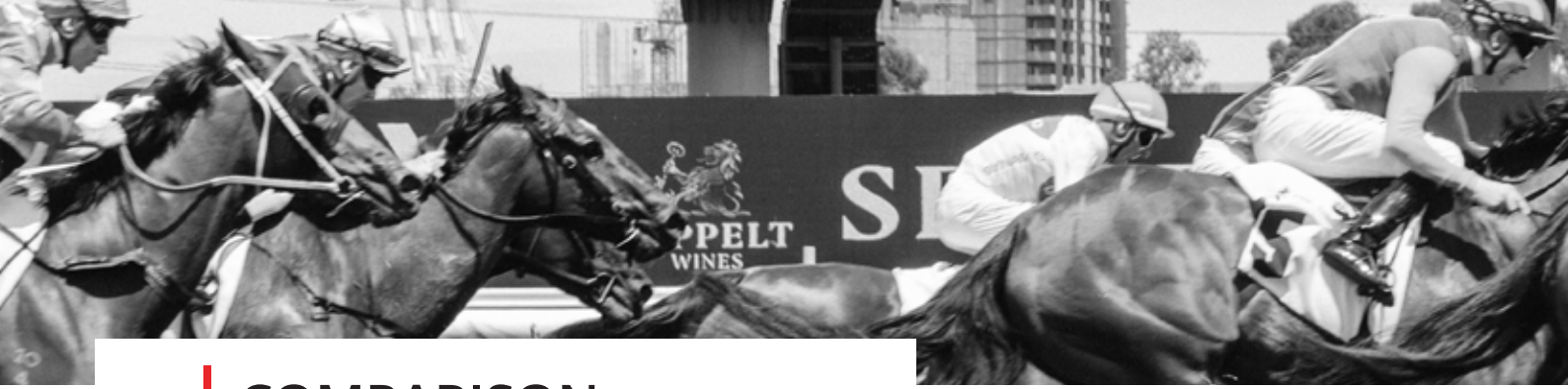
49 DIED FROM UNKNOWN CAUSES:



SPECIFIC INJURIES INCLUDE:

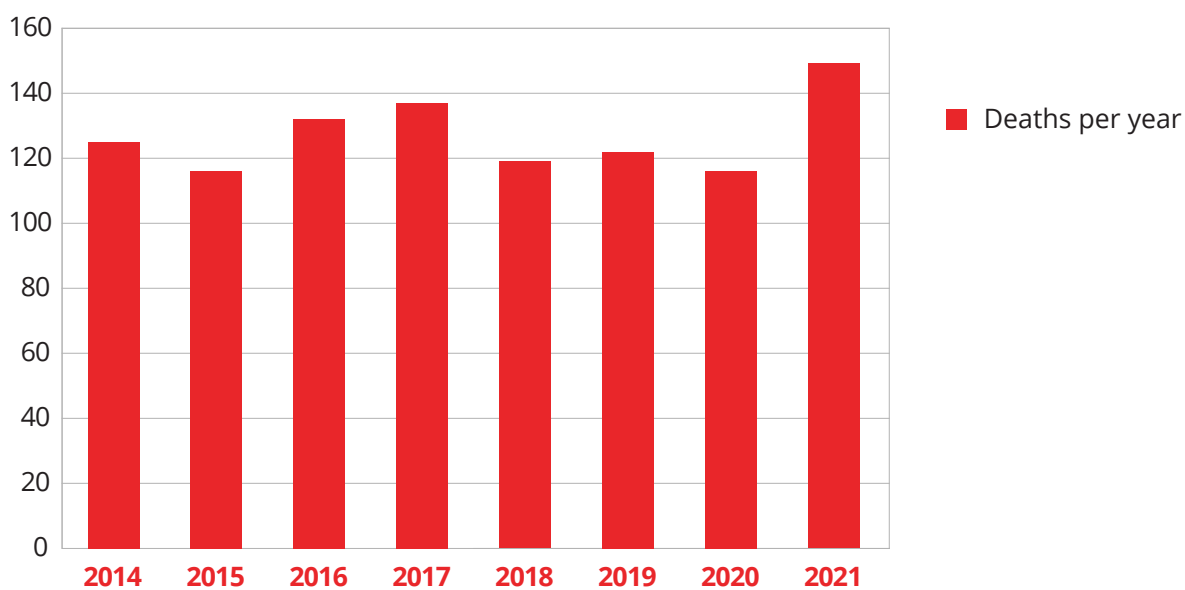
- heart attack
- skull fracture/head trauma
- fractured pelvis
- suspensory rupture/injury/
breakdown
- fetlock fracture
- luxation of fetlock joint
- fracture of the metacarpus
- fractured shoulder
- gangrene
- Impaled/bled to death
- exercise induced bleeding
attack
- fractured sesamoid bone
- fracture of the pastern
- fractured fetlock
- carpel fracture
- internal haemorrhage
- fractured knee
- open comminuted fracture
to cannon bone
- fracture of the humerus
- fractured radius

Others are simply categorised as **"serious/catastrophic racing injury"** or **"collapsed and died"**, with either very minimal or no details disclosed.



COMPARISON TO OTHER YEARS

DEATH RATE



2014 – There were **125 deaths**. This is one death every **2.9 days**

2015 – There were **116 deaths**. This is one death every **3.2 days**

2016 – There were **132 deaths**. This is one death every **2.8 days**

2017 – There were **137 deaths**. This is one death every **2.7 days**

2018 – There were **119 deaths**. This is one death every **3.1 days**

2019 – There were **122 deaths**. This is one death every **3.0 days**

2020 – There were **116 deaths**. This is one death every **3.2 days**

2021 – There were **149 deaths**. This is one death every **2.5 days**

Again, the true number of horse deaths caused from being raced would be much greater.

Watch our short clip to see how easy it is for deaths to go unreported.

<https://youtu.be/RDszJ-4NJFw>



TRACKWORK DEATHS ARE ALMOST AS FREQUENT AS RACEDAY DEATHS

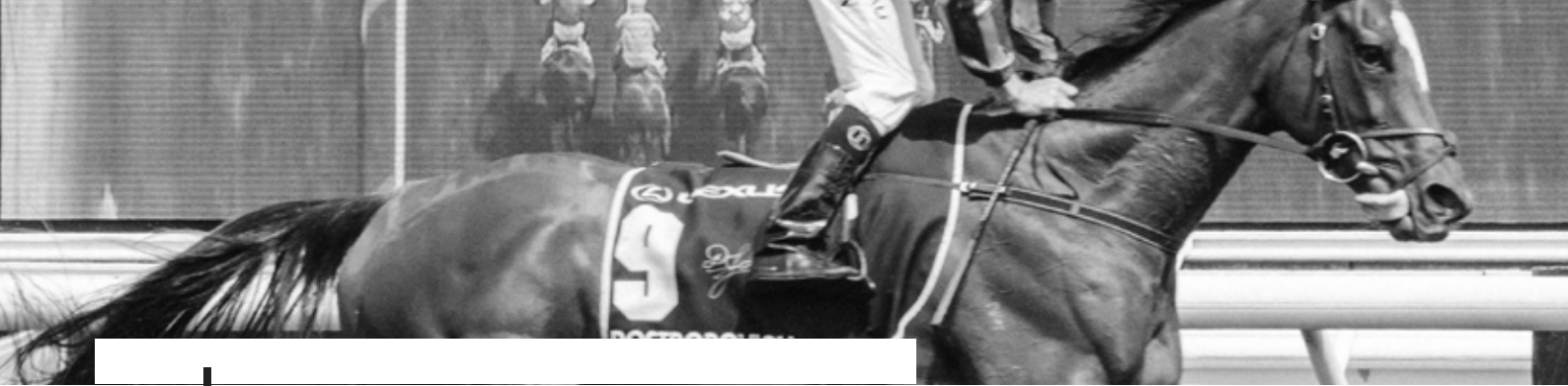
The only state to occasionally report on deaths in trackwork and training is NSW. A recent GIPA application made by the Office of Mark Pearson of the Animal Justice Party NSW demonstrates not only how frequent deaths in trackwork are, but also how often they go unreported. The high number of horses found to die in trackwork via this GIPA application, and the fact that all other states never report trackwork deaths, is **further evidence that our death toll figure in this and previous Deathwatch reports is grossly understated.**

Comparison of injury related track deaths in NSW across three racing years

2018/19 Racing Year	Race	Trackwork	Barrier Trial	Total
RNSW GIPA	28	26	6	60
Confirmed in Stewards' Reports or elsewhere	29	18	5	52
Not reported		8	1	9

2019/20 Racing Year	Race	Trackwork	Barrier Trial	Total
RNSW GIPA	27	18	5	50
Confirmed in Stewards' Reports or elsewhere	29	10	4	43
Not reported		8	1	9

2020/21 Racing Year	Race	Trackwork	Barrier Trial	Total
RNSW GIPA	30	24	7	61
Confirmed in Stewards' Reports or elsewhere	32	11	5	48
Not reported		13	2	15



STILL ACTIVE

Since the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses has been reporting on the high number of horses still listed as active on Racing Australia, long after their deaths are reported by stewards, there has been some improvement in their record keeping. In 2019, **seventeen deceased horses were still listed as active** at the time of writing the 2019 Deathwatch Report. Last year that number was reduced to five. This year it has increased to at least seven.*

Gattling Gun and **Amy's Shadow** are examples of this inaccurate record keeping. Both horses were killed at the same track on the same day, and both are still listed as active at the time of writing, three months on.

Parkes, NSW May 16, 2021, Race 4 - **Gattling Gun** *"fractured both sesamoids in the near foreleg" and suffered a "compound dislocation of the near fore fetlock and as such the gelding was euthanised."*

Parkes, NSW May 16, 2021, Race 7, **Amy's Shadow** *"became noticeably lame near the 1400m and was immediately pulled up. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the mare to have fractured its near side shoulder and as such the mare was euthanised."*

There continues to be thousands of horses each year listed as *'active'*, *'spelled'*, or *'retired'* who have simply vanished. Each racing jurisdiction must be more proactive in following up horses who never return to the track and publicly disclose the reasons.

At least seven of the 149 horses that were reported to have died on the track or in training are still listed as "active" on the Racing Australia website, despite their deaths being recorded in the stewards' reports.

- **Loudaz**
- **Gattling Gun**
- **Amy's Shadow**
- **Soyouinamood**
- **Lostarc**
- **Jomera**
- **Arctic Stream**

For screenshots of deceased horses still listed as active at the time of writing this report email enquiries@horseracingkills.com

NOTE: THESE HORSES WERE RESEARCHED AND CHECKED FOR THE FINAL TIME ON AUGUST 17, 2021. THEIR STATUS MAY HAVE BEEN UPDATED BY THE RACING INDUSTRY FROM 'ACTIVE' TO 'DECEASED' SINCE THIS DATE TO DISPLAY THE TRUTH.

*We were unable to check the status of fifteen of the deceased horses as Racing NSW did not provide their names.



- Screenshots from the Racing Australia website showing the active status of both **Gattling Gun** and **Amy's Shadow**

RACING AUSTRALIA Thoroughbred Welfare | myhorseracing | Racing Jobs | Equine Genetics Research Centre | Trainer and Owner Returns

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GATTLING GUN
 Byo Chestnut Gelding
 D.O.B: 08-Oct-2018
 by WAR from RIVERINA'S GIRL
[View Pedigree Report](#)

Status: Active
Owner's Details: Mr P W Evans
Stewards Embargoes: Current - Nil
Last Gear Change: 10-May-2021, Ear Muffs (Pre-Race Only), On
Trainer: Mr Brett Thompson (Gulpong)
Racing Colours: Green, Rainbow Muff And Armbands, White Cap
Career: Summary: 4-1-1-1 Prizemoney: \$18,300
 Min/Max-Dist-Win: 1100/1100 1st Up: 1-0-1-0 2nd Up: 1-0-1-0
 First: 0-0-0-0 Good: 1-1-0-0 Soft: 0-0-1-1 Heavy: 0-0-0-0 Synthetic: 0-0-0-0

Recent Form	All Form	Embargoes	Gear Changes	Rating	Notes	Wghts	Accs
7 3rd of 8	NWNE 17Oct20 1000m Good4 OPEN-BT 8000 Hecw Jones (4) 5kg Barrier 8 1st In The Road (4) 2nd Bongsura Lane (4) 0-47.06, 0-11L						
7 5th of 8	BATH 23Feb21 1100m Good OPEN-BT 8000 Clayton Battaglier (4) 5kg Barrier 6 1st Cleveon (4) 2nd Kootabas (4) 0-50.54, 0-26L						
7 3rd of 10	SCHE 15Mar21 900m Soft OPEN-BT 8000 Hecw Jones (4) 5kg Barrier 8 1st Lookash (4) 2nd Triple Ace (4) 0-53.09, 0-30L, 0-34L						
2nd of 12	WELL 28Mar21 1000m Soft 3Y+ MDN SW \$20,000 (8) 300 Hecw Jones (4) 5kg Barrier 8 1st G Day Poopie (8) 2nd Mega Celebration (4) 0-50.14, 1-37L, 3rd 400m, 2nd 400m, \$4,800, \$4,800, \$4,800						
3rd of 8	DRAN 18Apr21 1000m Soft 3Y+ MDN SW \$20,000 (8) 300 Hecw Jones (4) 5kg Barrier 8 1st Velen Seltens (4) 2nd White Liar (4) 0-54.01, 0-54L, 1st 400m, 1st 400m, \$4,800, \$4,800, \$4,800						
1st of 11	NWNE 27Apr21 1100m Good4 COG MDN SW \$22,000 (11) 200 Nick Heywood (4) 5kg Barrier 7 2nd Buster Fortale (4) 3rd Tatem Power (4) 0-47.46, 0-06L, 1st 400m, 1st 400m, \$3,600, \$4,800, \$4,800						
Failed to Finish of 12	PRKS 18May21 1000m Soft 3Y+ MDN SW \$22,000 Nick Heywood (8) 5kg Barrier 7 7kg 5L 1st Nobody's Puppet (4) 2nd Bysanum (4) 0-54.36, 1st 400m, \$4,800, \$4,800, \$4,800						



- Amy's Shadow

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AMY'S SHADOW
 Byo Gray Mare
 D.O.B: 18-Aug-2018
 by DANE SHADOW from OPERA'S AIM
[View Pedigree Report](#)

Status: Active
Owner's Details: Mrs N A Atkinson, Mr R S Atkinson
Stewards Embargoes: None on record
Last Gear Change: 18-Jun-2020, Blinkers, On, Comment: Declared - worked in blinkers.
Trainer: Mr Brett Thompson (Gulpong)
Racing Colours: Orange, Royal Blue Chevrans And Armbands
Career: Summary: 10-4-2-2 Prizemoney: \$129,350 Total Bonus: \$5,625
 Min/Max-Dist-Win: 1000/1000 1st Up: 3-1-0-1 2nd Up: 3-0-2-0
 First: 0-0-0-1 Good: 0-1-1-1 Soft: 6-2-2-1 Heavy: 2-1-0-0 Synthetic: 0-0-0-0

Recent Form	All Form	Embargoes	Gear Changes	Rating	Notes	Wghts	Accs
4th of 13	MOGE 30Feb21 1400m Good4 COG MDN SW \$160,000 (16) 750 Jason Colett (5) 5kg Barrier 12 8kg 73 1st Old Harbour (4) 2nd Hemigery (4) 1-23.31, 1-08L, 1st 400m, 1st 400m, \$4,800, \$4,800, \$4,800						
9th of 14	MOGE 20Mar21 1200m Soft WLD CARE \$56,000 (32) 300 Gert Buckley (5) 5kg Barrier 14 8kg 73 1st Puka (4) 2nd Rotherburg (4) 1-18.63, 0-00m, 3L, 0-37L, 1st 400m, 1st 400m, \$4,800, \$4,800, \$4,800						
7th of 8	BATH 28Apr21 1400m Good4 SADDLE CL4 \$52,000 (8) 750 Nick Heywood (8) 5kg Barrier 6 8kg 73 1st Zencologist (4) 2nd O'matpae (4) 0-14.21, 0-2, 0-27L, 1st 400m, 1st 400m, \$3,200, \$4,800, \$4,800						
2nd of 10	MOGE 09May21 1400m Soft GOODIE CUP MDN SW \$40,000 (17) 150 Gert Buckley (4) 5kg Barrier 6 8kg 73 1st A Magic Zaria (4) 2nd Mackenara Lane (4) 0-12.09, 0-36L, 1st 400m, 1st 400m, \$4,800, \$4,800, \$4,800						
Failed to Finish of 15	PRKS 18May21 1000m Good4 PRKS CUP MDN SW \$52,000 Gert Buckley (4) 5kg Barrier 8 8kg 73 1st Hit the Target (4) 2nd She's All in (4) 1-27.00, 1st 400m, 1st 400m, \$2,160, \$2,160, \$2,160						



'UNNAMED' HORSES

Occasionally this report refers to a horse as **'unnamed'**. In those cases, the horse died before being given an official racing name, usually during trackwork or training. Currently, New South Wales is the only state to occasionally disclose these deaths in reports when they are notified of them.

The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses continues to call for all deaths during trackwork, trials, and training to be included in stewards' reports nationwide as this would offer greater industry transparency.



Unnamed Gelding

Suffers Life Ending Injury After Winning Post

An unnamed three-year-old gelding was killed on 24 February, 2021, on the Acton track at Thoroughbred Park, Canberra.

FROM THE REPORT:

"Stewards today continued their inquiry into the death of the three-year-old bay gelding (Real Impact – Choice Blend) after it broke down in its near-foreleg soon after passing the winning post and was subsequently euthanised". A subsequent necropsy report found "the gelding suffered an open, comminuted fracture of the left fore cannon bone." Stewards found no concerning circumstances and "the inquiry was concluded."



Unnamed Filly

Sustained a Broken Shoulder in Trackwork at Flemington

The death of this filly was only picked up on due to a media article that just happened to mention her death.

"She was just doing fourteen seconds (fourteen seconds to the furlong). She put her foot in the wrong spot and that was it. That was terribly disappointing but if this game was easy, everyone would be doing it."

Her exact age is unknown.



One-Year-Old Unnamed Gelding

Killed in Trackwork at Moruya

On May 25, 2021, the yearling gelding *"broke down"* during trackwork at Moruya Racecourse and was subsequently *"euthanised"*.

A veterinary report *"detailed that the gelding had suffered a fracture of the humerus of the right foreleg."*

Stewards found no concerning circumstances and *"the inquiry was concluded."*

DIED IN THEIR FIRST RACE

THESE FOUR HORSES DIED IN THEIR FIRST EVER RACE:



Sacred Captain

Two years old

Collapsed on pulling up past the winning post and was found to be deceased.

19/8/20, Canterbury, NSW



Salento

Four years old

Four years old. Collapsed and fell making heavy contact with the inside running rail. Found to be deceased.

11/4/21, Sunshine Coast, QLD



Black Venture

Three years old

Fracture to off-hind femur.

25/11/20, Bunbury, WA



Hadley

Three years old

Three years old. Blundered badly. Serious racing injury.

23/10/20, Benalla, VIC

DIED IN THEIR FIRST TRIALS OR TRACKWORK

THE FOLLOWING TEN HORSES DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT TO THE RACETRACK:



Major Zariz

Two years old

Barrier Trial: The gelding suffered a fractured pelvis which was confirmed by x-ray the following morning. Euthanised due to helpless prognosis.

9/8/20, Dubbo, NSW



Shout For Summer

Two years old

Trackwork: The filly suffered a fractured near-side shoulder during slow trackwork

26/4/21, Murwillumbah, NSW



Without Reach

Three years old

Transport to Trackwork: Multiple major leg wounds to near hock while being transported to trackwork. She was euthanised one week later due to extremely poor prognosis.

2/3/21, Moruya, NSW



Monopolist

Two years old

Trackwork: The colt sustained a severe pelvic injury after being galloped 800m.

13/7/21, Royal Randwick, NSW



Lunar Goddess

Two years old

Trackwork: The filly pulled up acutely lame in her off hind leg after a routine track gallop.

13/4/21, Kembla Grange, NSW



Unnamed

Three years old

Trackwork: The gelding sustained an open, comminuted fracture of the left-fore cannon bone.

24/2/21, Canberra, ACT



Soyouinamood

Four years old

Training: The gelding collapsed and died after trotting in the round yard.

19/5/21, Moruya, NSW

Many more deaths of very young horses would be recorded and make up part of this report if other states disclosed such information*



Unnamed

One year old

Trackwork: The gelding suffered a fractured humerus to the off foreleg.

25/5/21, Moruya, NSW



Man O'Luck

Two years old

Trial: Sustained a fracture.

24/5/21, Belmont, WA



Unnamed

Filly of unknown age

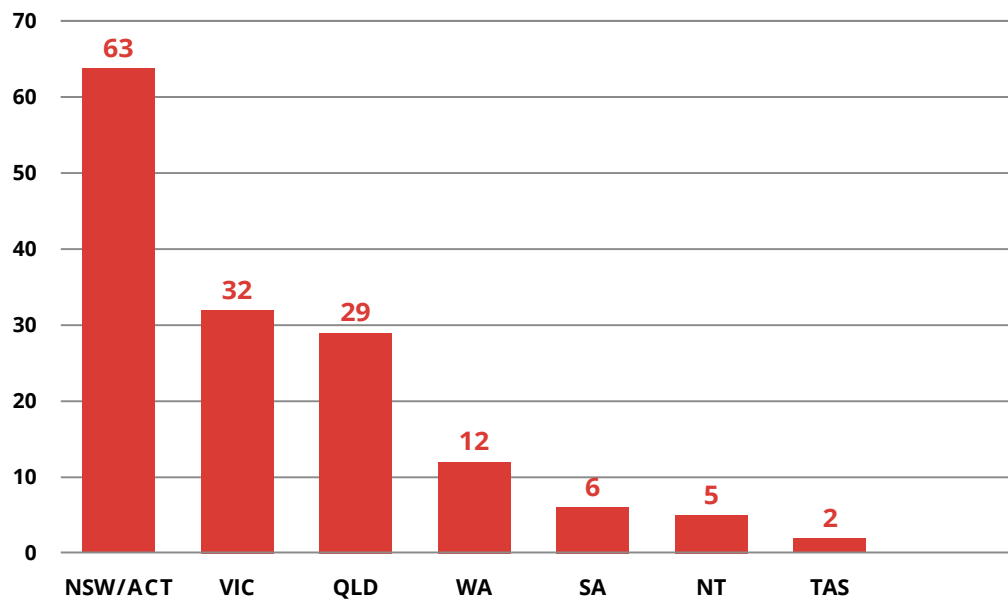
Trackwork: Broken shoulder.

20/11/20, Flemington, VIC

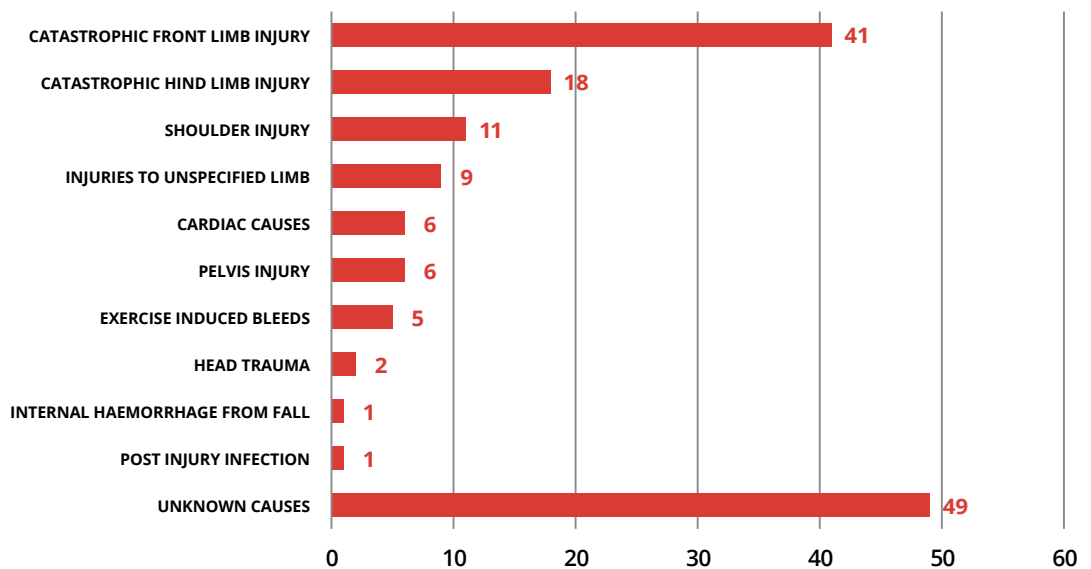
*Only Racing NSW occasionally records deaths in trials and trackwork, hence why the above are all within their jurisdiction (excluding the Flemington and Belmont deaths which happened to be reported in the media).

STATISTICS

DEATH BY STATE

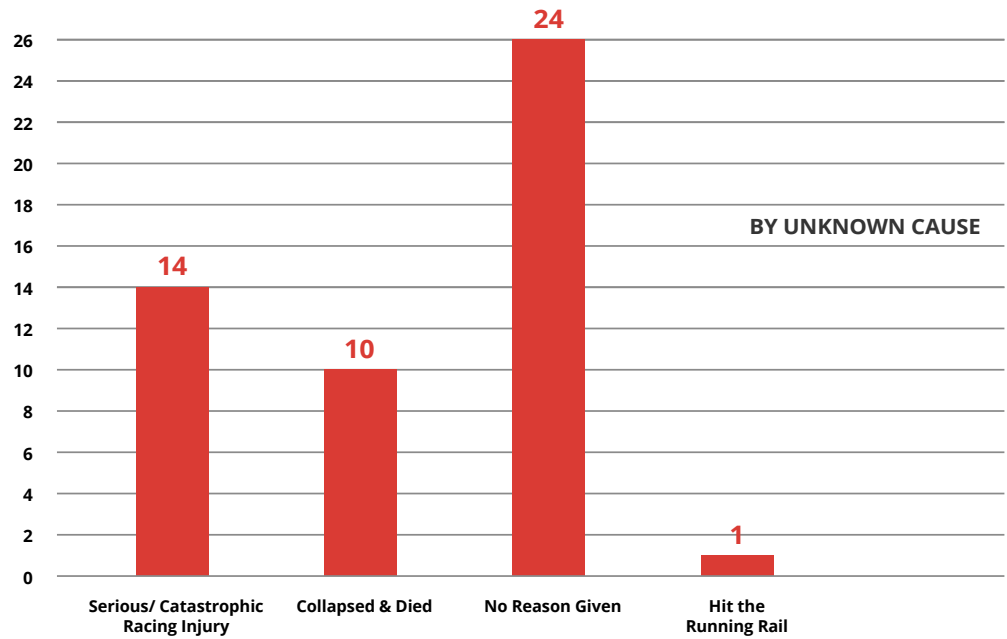


DEATH BY CAUSE

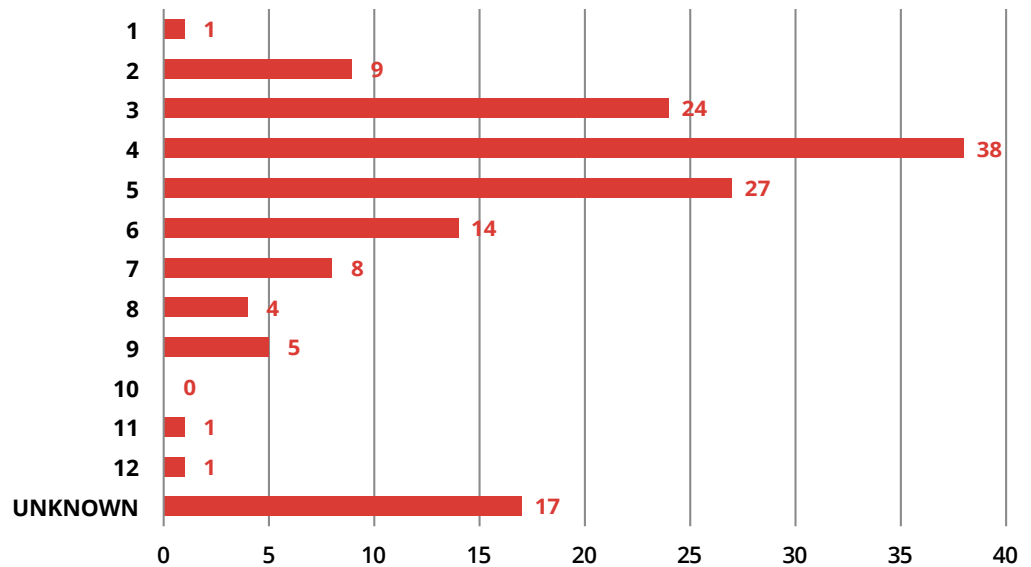


STATISTICS

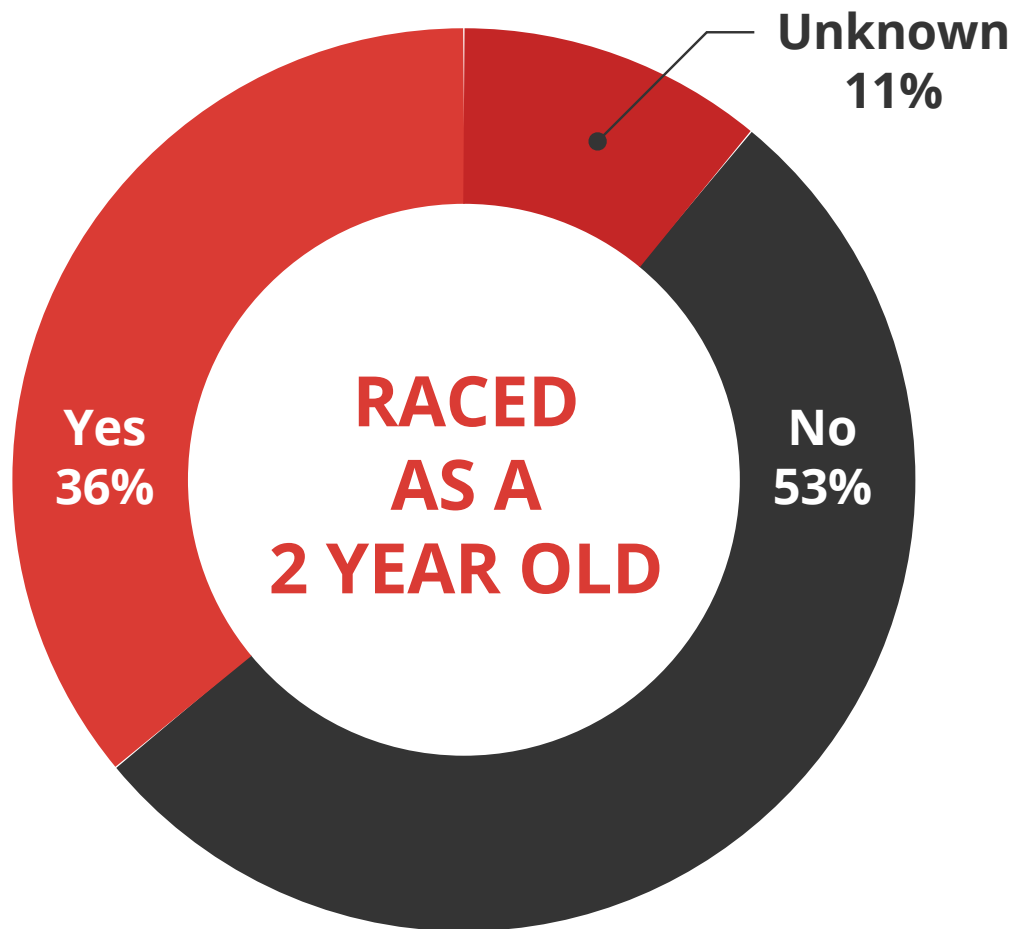
DEATH BY CAUSE



DEATH BY AGE



STATISTICS



*Many of the horses who did not race as a 2-year-old were in fact raced as a 3-year-old, which is still an under-developed stage

CASE STUDY 1



Fractious and Fearful Forced with a Buggy Whip

Stirling Estate from Western Australia was an example of a horse who was either terrified or who fought back. Perhaps both. On many occasions his trainer received warnings and suspensions because **Stirling Estate** would frequently object to being loaded into the barriers. So much so that it became standard practice to use a buggy whip to scare the gelding inside the gates before each race.

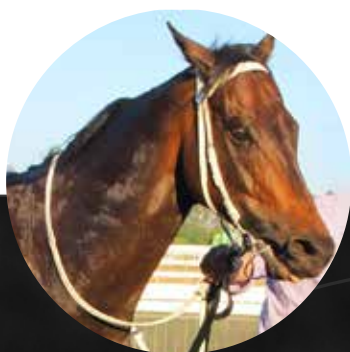
The barriers are a terrifying place for many horses, so the buggy whip must have been equally terrifying to **Stirling Estate** to achieve this desired purpose.

After racing in Bunbury on February 11, 2021, **Stirling Estate** kicked out in the wash bay, sustaining a minor split to his left-hind hoof. An antibiotic resistant infection is claimed to have subsequently developed in his leg, resulting in gangrene, and requiring him to be euthanised.

Nine-year-old **Stirling Estate** was not old for a horse, but he was old for a racehorse, considering the average time a horse is used for racing is less than three years. **Stirling Estate** survived being forced to race eighty-four times over a five-year period.

Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain an image of **Stirling Estate**. The image is of a filly they are trying to force into the barriers in Sydney. The witness told us *"this was a top filly and she was absolutely terrified of the man with the buggy whip behind the barriers."*

CASE STUDY 2-3



Milking Every Last Dollar

Darci's Money was raced seventy times and made his owners approximately \$113,000. He then vanished from racing for two years before being returned to the track at twelve years old. Due to his age, **Darci's Money** was required to have a vet check before each race, under the Australian rules of racing.

Stewards Report Toowoomba August 1, 2020

"DARCI'S MONEY – As the horse is 12 years old and was resuming from a two-year absence from racing, it underwent a pre-race veterinary examination and was cleared to start."

His owners squeezed another \$1,900 out of him over a further four races of very poor placings before his life came to an end at the Gatton track on November 12, 2020. He was *"passed fit to start"* after his pre-race veterinary examination.

"Near the 700m the gelding faulted and fell. A post-race veterinary examination revealed the gelding to have suffered a serious offside shoulder injury and was subsequently euthanised on humane grounds."



Raced to Death

Jemadar was literally raced until his body broke. The seven-year-old gelding had not had a spell in the fourteen months leading up to his death and in that time had been raced an astonishing thirty-four times. In the months leading up to his death, he was raced three, sometimes even four, times per month. On July 31, 2021, the last day of the racing year, **Jemadar** *"faltered in its action"* and was found to have *"sustained a catastrophic injury to its off-fore fetlock and it was subsequently euthanised on humane grounds."*

The Victorian and the Federal Government have financially supported Racing Victoria research at the University of Melbourne under Professor Chris Whitton, whose findings have proven bone fatigue from excessive racing without sufficient rest periods to be the leading cause of catastrophic breakdowns on the racetrack, yet these findings continue to be ignored by the racing industry, with trainers and owners forcing horses to race as often as they like. More on that here <https://bit.ly/2Xj5E7O>

Jemadar was not *"euthanised"*, he was killed, as are all horses who lose their lives on the racetrack.

CASE STUDY 4



The Melbourne Cup Death of Anthony Van Dyck

Anthony Van Dyck was the seventh horse to be killed at Flemington on Melbourne Cup Day in the past eight years. Stewards stated he *“sustained a serious racing injury near the 500 metres and was humanely euthanised.”* The injury was in fact a fracture of the fetlock, evident by footage capturing the way the hoof flaps in the opposite direction to the normal movement of the hoof. In instances like this catastrophic injury, the only humane option is to immediately euthanise the horse. Instead, **Anthony Van Dyck** was loaded onto a float and taken off the course to be killed. The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses has no doubt this was to try to avoid more bad publicity for Australia's most famous race. The suffering **Anthony Van Dyck** would have experienced in those moments would have been unbearable. To have prolonged his suffering is simply unacceptable. Read more including a statement by a former industry vet here <https://bit.ly/3ISiK5Y>

Unlike every other horse killed in racing throughout the year, **Anthony Van Dyck's** death made global headlines for the days and weeks that followed. A horse dying in any race on any day is a tragedy, but to the racing industry, it is Melbourne Cup deaths that

are of major concern. A follow up investigation into his death found he was lame a month before he broke down in the Melbourne Cup, that a nerve blocker was administered in the weeks leading up to the Melbourne Cup, and that although a CT imaging machine was available to the horse's trainers, which would have shown the nature and severity of his injury, it was not utilised.

A horse being horrifically injured when the eyes of the world are watching calls into question how we can allow horses to be killed in the name of gambling profits and entertainment. **Anthony Van Dyck's** death has forced Racing Victoria to implement forty-one new safety guidelines for entering horses into the Spring Racing Carnival and the Melbourne Cup, including improved veterinary procedures and screening measures. These guidelines do not impact horses being used in all other races at all other times across the country, clearly demonstrating that it is public perception the industry cares about, not the horses. This Deathwatch report shows there is at least one **Anthony Van Dyck** every 2.5 days on Australian racetracks and their lives all matter as much as his. He was four years old.

CASE STUDY 5-6



Collapsed and Died after Trotting in a Round Yard

Soyouinamood was first trialled for racing at the Moruya track on April 3, 2021, where he was found to be “*uncompetitive*” and his trainer was given a short suspension from racing him.

He was trialled again on May 2, 2021, and again finished last. Less than two weeks later, on May 13, **Soyouinamood** refused to be loaded into the barriers for his first ever race and was declared a late scratching. Six days later, **Soyouinamood** was dead.

His trainers claim the four-year-old gelding collapsed and died a short time after “*being trotted in a round yard*”. They also gave evidence he had been galloped “*the day prior with no issues to report*.” The stewards “*presumed sudden cardiorespiratory failure and the matter was concluded*.”



Belted Before Dying

On May 7, 2021, **Royal Monarch** came last in Race Five at Wagga Wagga. Video footage demonstrates that although clearly out of contention and falling way behind the leading horses, his rider continued to belt him with the whip right up until the final moments of the race.

“Following the running of the event, upon returning to the race day tie up stalls the gelding collapsed. On arrival of the Club’s veterinary officer the gelding was found to be deceased and the club’s veterinary officer reported the likely cause of death was cardiac failure.”

Jockeys have been known to receive warnings from stewards for not whipping horses right up to the final moments of a race. **Royal Monarch** was five years old.

CASE STUDY 7-8



Impaled and Bled to Death

Heroic Words panicked in the barriers pre-race and got stuck (as many horses do) at Port Hedland on July 17, 2021. The five-year-old gelding was then relocated to the 1600m chute where he broke free from his handler and ran into the outside running rail. It pierced his heart and he bled to death.

Heroic Words is one of several horses who have smashed into or through the track rails this year.



Died Past the Winning Post

Royal Monarch was not the only horse to die just moments after being raced. Of the 149 horses reported to have been killed on the racetrack (or shortly after) due to race day injuries, at least eighteen of them sustained their life-taking injury or episode past the winning post.

Like many of the deaths that occur in racing, people watching on would most likely be completely unaware any of the deaths listed on the following page occurred.

Died Past the Winning Post (cont.)

Rosy Elsie - 4 years old

Collapsed and died following the running of the event.

Sacred Captain - 2 years old

On pulling up he collapsed and was found to be deceased.

Fastquest - 8 years old

Clipped heels with another horse passed the finish line, fell, and fractured his radius.

Brotherhood Of Man - 5 years old

On pulling up the gelding suffered a serious racing injury to his off side shoulder.

Sea Hoffa - 4 years old

On return to the tie up stall, post-race, he became fractious, struck his head and fell. He was found to be deceased.

Dansdale - 4 years old

Collapsed after the winning post and was found to be deceased.

Zealand - 4 years old

Suffered a cardiovascular "accident" post-race when returning to stalls.

Lucky Shadow - 3 years old

After the winning post, suffered a catastrophic luxation of her near fore fetlock joint.

Whiteley - 5 years old

Broke down after the winning post

Nirvana - 6 years old

"Went amiss" after the winning post and was euthanised.

Into Glory Ride - 3 years old

The mare "went amiss" crossing the winning post. Stewards reported a suspected pelvic injury.

Lostarc - 6 years old

Passed winning post and knuckled. The gelding sustained fractures to his near fore sesamoid bones and was euthanised.

One Penny Red - 5 years old

Collapsed after passing winning post and was subsequently found to be deceased.

Noble Belle - 4 years old

Suffered a fracture to her near fore fetlock approximately 100m past winning post.

In Ya Skyrocket - 5 years old

On pulling up after race, he faltered and sustained an injury to his near fore tendon.

Unnamed 3 year old

Broke down in his near-foreleg soon after passing the winning post.

Aggravate - 6 years old

On returning to the enclosure the gelding reared before collapsing then passing away.

Showusyamoves - 4 years old

Sustained a "serious racing injury" after passing the winning post and was subsequently euthanised.





BLEEDS

Bleeding of the lungs, or exercise-induced pulmonary haemorrhage (EIPH), is an exercise-induced condition with high prevalence in racing thoroughbreds. Horses with EIPH bleed into their lungs and airways, usually because of burst capillaries. The tiny blood vessels are ruptured by the sheer pressure of blood pumping around the body during strenuous exercise.

"EIPH is a condition afflicting nearly all racehorses during high intensity running. The severity of EIPH ranges from negligible blood in the lower airways detectable only via bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) to frank epistaxis." (Kindig et al. 2001, p. 1396)

A more recent paper by Crispe and Lester states that only 1% of bleeds are detectable as epistaxis (bleeding through the nostrils), meaning the rest are more difficult to diagnose because they bleed into their lungs without it being visible.

548 horses in Australia were reported to have suffered bleeds while being raced within this racing year, compared to 483 in the previous year. This equates to 1.5 horses being pushed to the point of **bleeding through their nose** on the racetrack every day.

■ Horse suffering from exercise-induced pulmonary haemorrhage (EIPH). **Source:** Unknown

The vast majority of those reported bled from one or both nostrils. Just a small number were recorded as having bled internally—those bleeds were only reported as they resulted in death.

With just 1% of bleeds being detectable via visible blood in the nostrils, this year's count of 548 horses presenting this way after being raced indicates horses finished a race with blood in their lungs to varying degrees on 54,252 occasions.

In Australia, the first time a horse is reported to have suffered from EIPH during a race, they are banned from racing for three months; the second time they are banned for life. However, the vast majority of bleeds go undetected.

CASE STUDY 1-2



Catastrophic Bleeding Attack Suffered

On August 1, 2020, the date the racing industry declares to be a horse's birthday, a four-year-old gelding named **Pogo** ran his last ever race at Toowoomba. From 900m Pogo began to yield ground. A post-race veterinary examination revealed that **Pogo** had sustained a catastrophic bleeding attack. He was subsequently euthanised.

Pogo had earned over \$24,000 for his owners.



Bled, Collapsed, and Died During Race

On September 12, 2020, a six-year-old gelding named **Savsgold** was raced for the last time at Nanango, Queensland. At the 300m mark, **Savsgold** tired significantly, then *"shifted out abruptly and collapsed to the track"*. The club veterinary surgeon attended and advised that Savsgold had suffered a bleeding attack and was deceased. **Savsgold** was a known *"bleeder"* by the industry, having previously suffered a two-nostril bleed whilst racing when he received the obligatory three-month ban.

Savsgold had earned \$15,900 for his owners.

CASE STUDY 3



Boxing Day Tragedy

Tactical Move was a four-year-old gelding who was raced for the last time on Boxing Day 2020 (December 26).

Tactical Move was late to approach the home turn. Upon the home straight, he suffered a fatal bleeding attack and crashed through the running rail.

Tactical Move had won over \$17,000 for his owners.

Like all horses who have died in Queensland, **Pogo**, **Savsgold** and **Tactical Move** remain listed as '*retired*' on the Racing Queensland website.



■ **Tactical Move** crashes through the running rail



MISSING OR EDITED VIDEO REPLAYS

As the racing industry becomes increasingly under scrutiny, it is becoming more difficult for race replays which involve deaths to be accessed.

Over recent years we have seen an increase in attempts to cover up incidents where horses have been harmed to the point of serious injury and death on the racetrack and, unfortunately, this racing year was no exception.

In fact, of the many races where a horse was reported to have been killed, most of the various websites from the states and territories either edited the replay, failed to upload the stewards' vision, or failed to upload any video replays of the entire race in which the death occurred, on a total of nineteen occasions (the same number as last year).

Of the nineteen deaths whose replays were either not uploaded or edited, ten were from Victoria.

As we frequently see in the racing industry, the standard action taken when horses are harmed is to try to cover it up rather than address it.

The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses continues to call on the racing industry to live up to their claims of being "*open and transparent*" by reporting on all deaths caused by race day injuries, even when the horses die away from the track, and to ensure all race replays are accessible.


Races Five and Six missing from stewards' vision – the races in which **Bon's Ghost** and **Zipitsweetie** died.

Swan Hill | 16th February 2021


Swan Hill
Tuesday, 16th February

ALL12345678


Raceday Replays




Swan Hill Race 8 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 7 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 6 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 5 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 4 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 3 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 2 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021



Swan Hill Race 1 - 16.02.21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 07-Stewards Vision-16-02-21
16 February, 2021




Swan Hill Race 08-Stewards Vision-16-02-21
16 February, 2021

VIDEO
MISSING


VIDEO
MISSING




Swan Hill Race 04-Stewards Vision-16-02-21
16 February, 2021



Swan Hill Race 03-Stewards Vision-16-02-21
16 February, 2021



Swan Hill Race 02-Stewards Vision-16-02-21
16 February, 2021



Swan Hill Race 01-Stewards Vision-16-02-21
16 February, 2021

HORSE RACING SPONSORS

Horse racing has many sponsors, from small local businesses through to large corporations.

The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses is calling on businesses to withdraw their support of horse racing and outlines this in **10 Reasons Why Your Brand Should Not Be Associated With Horse Racing** here: <https://bit.ly/3xQTKyn>

The following companies (or clubs) sponsored (or were supported by) races in which a horse was killed:

Australia Wide

Bendigo Community Bank
Heineken
Iron Jack
Furphy Beer
XXXX Gold
Great Northern
Carlton United Brewery
Laser Clinics Australia
PFD Food Services
Specsavers
Lexus
Totally Workwear
Milestone Chemicals
Decron Horse Care
Hyland Sportswear
WIN TV
Hankook Tyres
Tile and Clipsal
Horsepower Equine Nutrition
Mitavite Equine Feeds
Hygain Equine Feed
TAB
bet365
Neds Betting
Ladbrokes Betting

South Australia

Fleurieu Milk Company – *Myponga, SA*
Datgaw Services Landscape Supplies – *Port Augusta, SA*

Tasmania

Legacy – *Hobart, TAS*

New South Wales

Adam's Sawmill – *Bonville, NSW*
Sign Print Stitch – *Gunnedah, NSW*
Emirates Park Breeding & Racing – *Hunter Valley, NSW*
Coffs Harbour Office Supplies – *Coffs Harbour, NSW*
Highland Estate, Mass Property Group – *Dubbo, NSW*
Our Kids – *Lismore, NSW*
Cyren Bar & Grill – *Sydney, NSW*
Best Western Plus – *Goulburn, NSW*
Ace Radio – *Albury, NSW*
Slipway Hotel – *Ballina, NSW*
Goulburn Soldiers Club – *Goulburn, NSW*
Calcott Refrigeration – *Tamworth, NSW*
Newhaven Park Breeders – *Boorowa, NSW*
Divalls Earthmoving – *Goulburn, NSW*
Byrne Trailers – *Wagga Wagga, NSW*
Walsh & Blaire Lawyers – *Wagga Wagga, NSW*
WesTrac CAT Equipment – *Cobar, NSW*
Parkes Services Club – *Parkes, NSW*
Donges IGA – *Young, NSW*
Elevations II Café – *Young, NSW*
Uralla Bowling & Recreation Club – *Uralla, NSW*
Moree Services Club – *Moree, NSW*
Vinery Stud – *Segenhoe, NSW*

Western Australia

Civilcon Construction – *Picton, WA*
Crown – *Perth, WA*
Plumbers & Gas Fitters – *Bunbury, WA*
North West Waste Alliance – *Karratha, WA*
Peninsula Dining Room – *Belmont, WA*

Victoria

Apiam Animal Health – *Bendigo, VIC*
The Leighoak Club – *Oakley, VIC*
Terang Co-op – *Terang, VIC*
CHP Management – *Hawthorn, VIC*
MC Labour – *Bundoora, VIC*
Cadd Constructions – *Swan Hill, VIC*
Jarrod Arentz Electrical – *Swan Hill, VIC*
Two Tarts Catering – *Echuca, VIC*
Kubota Machinery – *Swan Hill, VIC*
Porter Plant Machinery – *Cambrian Hill, VIC*

Queensland

Ascot Green Apartments – *Eagle Farm, QLD*
Living Gems Retirement Living – *Toowoomba, QLD*
Roma Gas Supplies – *Roma, QLD*
Common Sense Financial Planning – *Toowoomba, QLD*
Agricultural Requirements – *Gatton, QLD*
Woods Tyres – *Emerald, QLD*
Maydan Livestock Transport – *Warwick, QLD*
Free Stone Feedlot – *Sladevale, QLD*
Kilcoy Exchange Hotel – *Kilcoy, QLD*
Central Tyre Service – *Mareeba, QLD*
Tonon Plumbing & Gas – *Cairns, QLD*
Festival of Horsepower – *Ipswich, QLD*
Mullins Lawyers – *Brisbane, QLD*
GC Plumbing – *Gold Coast, QLD*

Northern Territory

AUS Projects – *Katherine, NT*
Darwin Horse Floats – *Darwin, Alice Springs, Adelaide and Melbourne*

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra Raiders – *Canberra, ACT*

REST IN PEACE

Pogo
Rosy Elsie
Dream Piece
Major Zaritz
Skilled Assassin
Double Pockets
Sacred Captain
Davor
The Kingdom
God of Thunder
He's Not Focused
His Latest Flame
Savsgold
Gatting
King Blitz
Fastquest
I Dream of Jena
Lord Laurie
More Gee
Brotherhood of Man
Zealand
Wichita
Involved
Pointstohappiness
Lucky Shadow
Hadley
Elite Princess
Super Girl
Codebreaker
Tee Lexus
Thorn Lass
Stadolina
Anthony Van Dyck
Echo Lad
Somebody Loves You
Darci's Money
Alrillo
Fender Bender
Tadween
Quezmar
Turcotte
Whiteley
Loudaz
Unnamed
Tactical Move

Opposite
Goldkind
Forgotten Jewel
Craiglea Schumo
Douglas
Sir Harry
Boom Tiger
Evie Girl
Melted Moments
Noble Belle
Aristo Missile
Madam Pompom
Miss Farloo*
Stirling Estate
Good As Gold
Bon's Ghost
Zipitsweetie
In Ya Skyrocket
Unnamed
All In Brawl
Without Reach
Lalvani
Star Glitter
Stonehenge
Coolamine
Bella Cavalla
Daisley
Spritz It Up
Dansdale
Liberty's Luck
Niccirose
Whitemore
Sea Hoffa
Salento
Lunar Goddess
War's End
Rothenburg
Cabarrus
Unknown (name not published)
Shout For Summer
Fulmineus
Tocatchacod
Royal Monarch
Monterey Magic

Soyouinamood
Brother Fox
Saucy Jack
Man O'Luck
Thousand Island
Unnamed
Sythaero
Ronniejay
Something Fancy
Lostarc
Aggravate
Vital Speedster
Captivator
Make An Offer
The Unknown
Break On Through
Swiss Design
Showusyamoves
Billie De Lune
Heroic Words
Monopolist
Garner
Removal
Unico
Jomera
Pankratova
Jemadar
Noble Savage
Arctic Stream
Black Venture
Phere Her
Nirvana
One Penny Road
My Last Roadie
Cubman
My Belly Button
My Golden Chain
Into Glory Ride
Gorgeous Black (Prize Pennies)
Gattling Gun
Amy's Shadow
Luna Amante
Northern Great
El Nino's Choice
River Night

*retired but still being used by the industry when she was injured and killed

We also acknowledge and pay respect to the fifteen horses whose names were not provided in the data obtained via the AJP NSW GIPA application. We would also like to pay respect to the many horses who sustained an injury during their race but were taken off the track for veterinary treatment but could not (or were chosen not to) be saved. Their deaths are not reported and contribute to the many thousands of horses who simply vanish from the industry each year.



THANK YOU FOR READING

This report was written by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

If you have any more information to share, get in touch. We will never divulge sources.

horseracingkills.com