DEATHWATCH REPORT 2023



Prepared by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses

In Memoriam

168 fallen racehorses

1 August 2022 - 31 July 2023

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1 ABOUT

Deathwatch Report 2023 is the tenth annual report that summarises all reported ontrack deaths of racehorses around Australia over the preceding twelve months. Research and production are by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

This report is produced in the interests of transparency and public awareness as the

racing industry does not publish statistics on the injuries they cause that result in death.

From the period August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023 (the 'racing year'), CPR monitored every race Australia-wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses on Australian racetracks.

2 SOURCES OF DATA

Data for the Deathwatch Report is sourced from Principal Racing Authority's official stewards' reports for each state, and various media outlets.

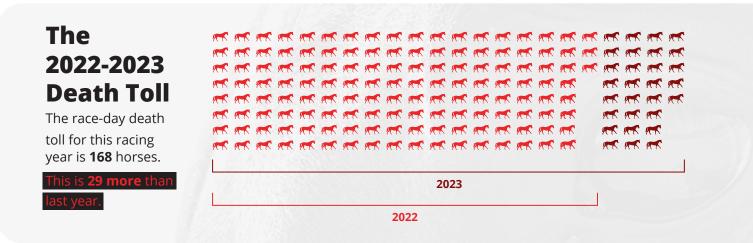
Consistent with previous years, in conducting their research for 2023, CPR has observed many instances of obstruction and deception by the industry. Members of the industry often refuse to engage in a meaningful or constructive conversation. Video replays of races are often edited to omit footage of injuries and serious incidents before they are made publicly available. Alarmingly, an increasing number of seriously injured and suffering horses were removed from the track to be euthanised behind the scenes, with the objective that these deaths are not reported in official race day reports CPR can confirm that every death listed in this report, and the cause of death, has been thoroughly researched by a skilled and dedicated team.

Whistle-blowers from within the industry and the public can help by reporting misconduct or dishonest, illegal, or unethical activity.

We encourage anyone with information that may be of interest to us to please make a report **here** or contact us directly via phone or email. Anonymity is guaranteed.

3 KEY FINDINGS

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



A horse is killed on Australian racetracks every 2 days.

The most common cause of death was from an injury sustained to the horses' forelimb with **63** instances.

- 6 horses died in their first ever race.
- **51** horses died past the winning post.
- **10** horses were two years old or younger when they died.

Of the horses that were killed, **60** had been raced as two-year olds.

Racing Victoria remains the biggest culprit of not reporting the cause of death of a horse – failing to do so **16** times.

Racing Victoria edits racing replays to hide horse injuries and deaths more than any other state racing authority.

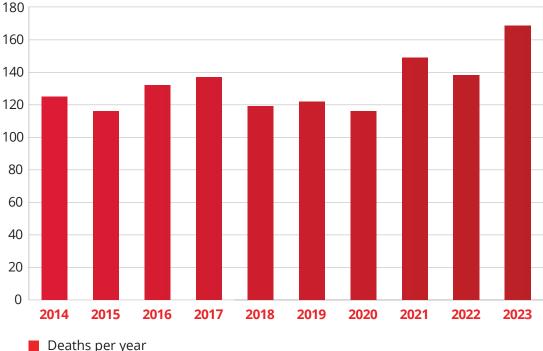
The state with the highest recorded deaths was New South Wales with **53** deaths, followed by Queensland with **40** and Victoria with **39**.

The most lethal track in Australia v	vas Thoroughbred Park in Canberra, ACT
with 6 recorded deaths, followed	d by Aquis Park on the Gold Coast, QLD
and Ascot in Perth, WA, each with	confirmed deaths.

4 COMPARISON TO OTHER YEARS

Since CPR began maintaining records in 2014, the number of horse deaths reported has been reasonably consistent. This evidence is contrary to the industry's claims that animal welfare standards are improving.

DEATH RATE



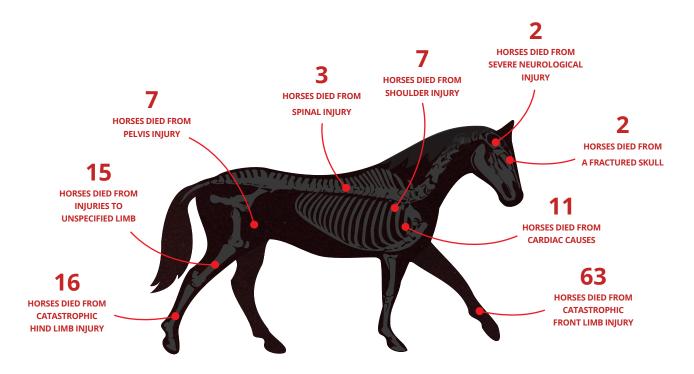
2014	There were	125 deaths	This is one death every	2.9 days
2015	There were	116 deaths	This is one death every	3.2 days
2016	There were	132 deaths	This is one death every	2.8 days
2017	There were	137 deaths	This is one death every	2.7 days
2018	There were	119 deaths	This is one death every	3.1 days
2019	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
2022	There were	139 deaths	This is one death every	2.5 days
2023	There were	168 deaths	This is one death every	2 days

The true number of horse deaths caused from being raced is likely to be much greater than what is reported. Watch our short clip to see how easy it is for deaths to go unreported here.

5 DEATHS IN DETAIL

5.1 Statistics

Of the **168** horses that were reported to have died, **the most prevalent cause of death was catastrophic front limb injury with sixty-three occurrences.** Catastrophic hind limb injury was the second leading cause of death with sixteen occurrences. Other causes of death were cardiac causes, massive bleeds, shoulder injury, pelvis injury, severe laceration, spinal injuries, aneurysm, skull fractures, and severe neurological injuries from head trauma.





HORSES DIED FROM EXERCISE-INDUCED BLEEDS



HORSE DIED FROM A SEVERE LACERATION



– HORSE DIED FROM AN ANEURYSM



HORSES DIED FROM UNKNOWN CAUSES



HORSES DIED FROM OWNERS DECIDING THEIR CONDITIONS MADE THEM UNSUITABLE TO RACE, THEREFORE UNSUITABLE TO LIVE

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Racing Victoria continues to fail to disclose the cause of death of many horses that die on tracks in their jurisdiction. Of the horses whose cause of death is not clarified in official stewards' reports, sixteen were from Victorian racetracks.

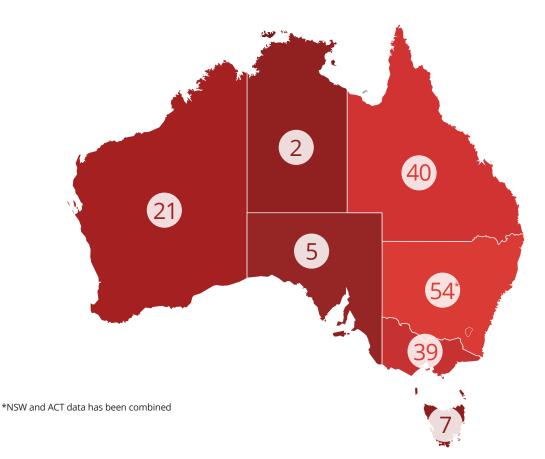
Victoria reported a total of thirty-nine deaths, meaning Victorian stewards' only disclosed the cause of death in their reporting eleven times.

SUBCATEGORY OF UNKNOWN CAUSES

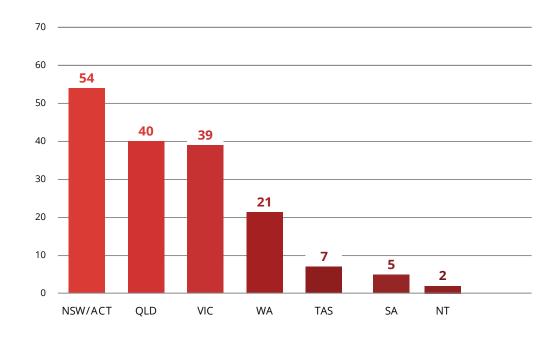
- 33 DIED FROM UNKNOWN CAUSES
- 12 NO REASON GIVEN
- 11 COLLAPSED AND DIED
- 8 SERIOUS/CATASTROPHIC RACING INJURY
- 1 SEIZURES
- 1 SIGNIFICANT INJURIES

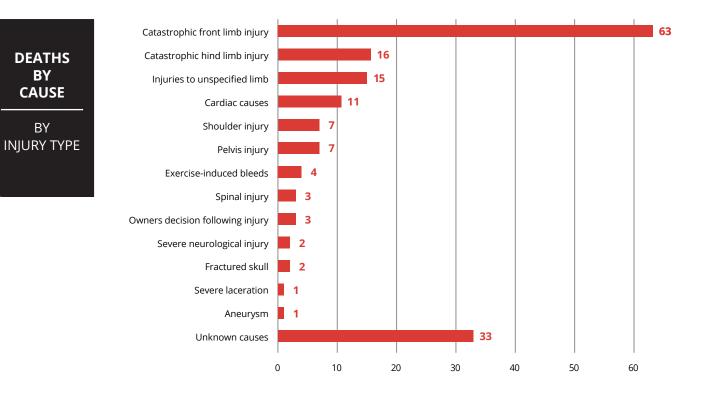
STATISTICS

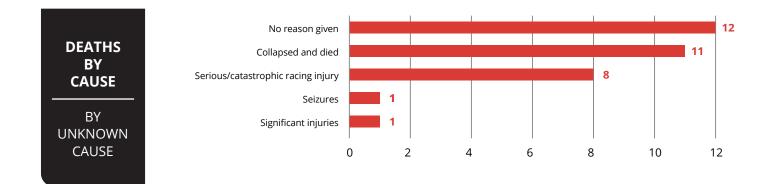
DEATHS BY STATE

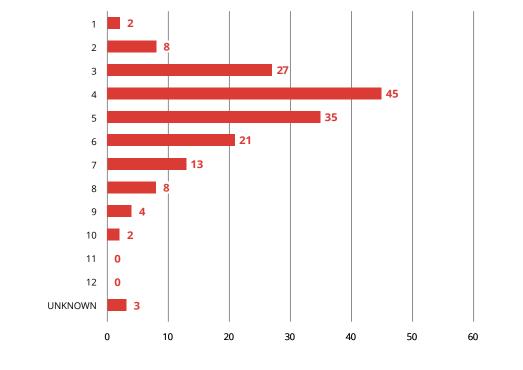


DEATHS BY STATE



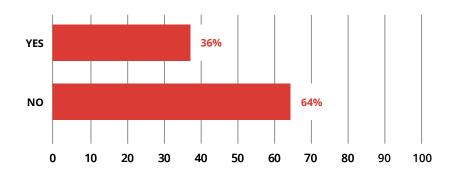












*Many of the horses who did not race as a two-year-old were in fact raced as a three-year-old, which is still an under-developed age.

5.3 Specific Injuries

The specific injuries that have been reported this racing year that resulted in death include

- sudden cardiorespiratory failure
- head trauma, fractured pelvis
- fractured shoulder
- bled out into abdominal cavity
- fractured radius
- severe cut near stomach
- ruptured superdigital flexor tendon
- exercise induced bleeding attack
- compound fractured pastern
- dislocation of distal interphalangeal joint
- strained tendon, laceration
- fracture to third metacarpal bone to distal forelimb
- traumatic disruption of fetlock joint
- lateral proximal sesamoid comminuted fracture
- palpable fractures of both sesamoid bones
- fractured fetlock
- exercise associated cardiorespiratory dysfunction
- ruptured suspensory

- biaxial comminuted sesamoid fractures
- persistent cardiac arrythmia
- compound dislocation to fetlock
- spinal injury
- carpel slab fracture
- comminuted fracture to third metacarpal bone
- displaced fracture of medial proximal sesamoid bone
- displaced facet slab fracture of third carpal bone with medial comminution
- complete loss of soft tissue structures
- complete disarticulation of fetlock joint
- partial rupture of suspensory ligament
- severed flexor tendons
- complete fracture of distal cannon
- fracture of supporting ligaments and tendons of fetlock
- shattered fetlock, catastrophic muscle tear to quadricep
- suspensory rupture/injury/collapse

5.3 Still Active

Since the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses has been reporting on the high number of horses still listed as active by Racing Australia, long after their deaths are reported by stewards', there has been significant improvement in their record keeping. In 2019, seventeen deceased horses were still listed as active at the time of writing that years Deathwatch Report. By 2021 that number was reduced to seven. Last year two horses from our list of those who we discovered to have lost their lives from being used in racing that racing year were still listed as 'active'. This year we are happy to report that every single horse we have discovered to have been killed due to a racing injury has had their status updated to 'deceased' by the authority. However, many of these horses' status were not updated until months after their deaths, demonstrating there remains clear attempts to hide fatal outcomes. Additionally, countless horses are listed as 'retired' each year, before being sent to the knackery or killed on farm. The industry does not update any deaths once a horse is listed as 'retired'. The system conveniently caters to **out of sight, out of mind.**

5.4 Died in Their First Race

These horses died in their first ever race:

Jazzy Jasper

Jazzy Jasper was extremely young. He died during his first race on 22 October 2022 at just one year old. It was the first race for all horses in the tragic race that day – the 2YO Colts & Geldings Maiden Plate.

Jazzy Jasper sustained injuries to both of his forelegs on the home turn and was euthanised. Footage shows both legs snapped and flapping under the gelding as he tries to stand and can't. CPR picked up voices on the replay – presumably from the stewards' room, stating:

They were a mile off em'. (referring to Jazzy Jasper and Kai Come who shifted abruptly on exiting the barriers and crossed his path forcing him well off course) They didn't know what they were doing.

Ohhhhh shit! He broke down. He got back up. He tried but he didn't. Poor old Kliese (jockey), god he's had his fair share of bad luck. Guess he's banning himself from two year olds now. Well I don't know whether he's been riding them or not but look, they were 100 yards off.

(referring to when they exit the barriers)

– like they'd never been through the machines before. How'd they get a barrier ticket? That's pretty sad to watch.
It just blundered and went crunch.
It just didn't look right.
Probably obviously didn't feel right either.
I don't know how they were able to race. They needed about seven walk throughs before they figured it out.

That's shocking... honestly.

To hear and see the full clip click here.

NB: Those in the know are aware that horses are not allowed to be raced until the age of two years old. However, the age of the horse is decided by the 'racing calendar year', not the horses actual date of birth. Therefore, horses can and are often still just one year old when being entered into official races.



Firelock

Four-year-old gelding, *Firelock*, fell in his first ever race at Albany in Western Australia on 13 November 2022. Stewards only reported that the horse suffered a minor abrasion to his off forelimb. Later, the trainer claimed the fall caused him injury to his pelvis and both hind legs. The veterinarian could not give a certificate of soundness as they could not tell why he fell in the first place. The trainer decided to kill *Firelock*, claiming if she rehomed him and someone else was injured, she would be responsible. When questioned as to why she didn't allow him to live as a companion horse and simply ensure he not be ridden, the trainer stated "horses are not pets, that is ridiculous. They cost too much to feed and look after without riding." According to the WA Minister for Racing, Racing and Wagering Western Australia officials reported Firelock was euthanised due to a racing injury to his hind leg that "could not be resolved." The Minister appears to never have questioned or doubted the truth of this report.



Here Comes Babbler

Here Comes Babbler was a three-year-old gelding who died immediately after his first race on 14 January 2023 at Darwin. Whilst being eased up after the finish line, *Here Comes Babbler* collapsed from a suspected aneurysm.



Clea

Clea was forced into her first race on the Kensington track at Randwick on 8 March 2023 at just two years old. The filly ran last then collapsed and died from a heart attack right there just past the post. The Daily Telegraph reported on her the day prior stating that her trainer, Brad Widdup, *"expects Clea to come into her own as a three-year-old but plans to give the filly a chance to make a statement while still a juvenile."* That she did.



Lockitineddy

Lockitineddy was a three-year-old gelding who died during his first race at Toowoomba on 18 March 2023. *Lockitineddy* suffered a pelvis injury during the race and was euthanised.



Little Trojan

Little Trojan was a three-year-old gelding who died in his first race at the Cannon Park, Cairns track on 3 June 2023. *Little Trojan* suffered an injury to his front leg and was euthanised on the track. Racing Queensland edited the race replay to hide his injury from public view.



5.5 Died in Training, First Trials or Trackwork

In addition to race day deaths on-track, many horses are killed every year from racing-related injuries off the track after being trialled, or in training. None of the States, except for New South Wales, report any deaths that occur in training or in trials.

It is becoming evident that deaths in trackwork are almost as frequent as race day deaths.

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.

This only reinforces the need for mandatory reporting. Petition here.

These horses didn't even make it to the racetrack:

Bustin' Loose, Connive, Klaire's Approach, Chapeau Bas, Bacchanal Lady, Megaton, Spider Brown, Chicouver

BUSTIN' LOOSE Four years old.

Barrier Trial: The mare collapsed and died when returned to her stables after being trialled. 11/9/22, Coffs Harbour, NSW.

CONNIVE Three years old.

Barrier Trial: Became acutely lame in his off-hind limb having likely sustained a pelvic fracture. Euthanised. 11/10/22, Goulburn, NSW.

KLAIRE'S APPROACH Four years old.

Jumpouts: The mare sustained a catastrophic fracture to her distal third metacarpal bone in her off foreleg. Euthanased. 12/10/22, Canberra, ACT.

CHAPEAU BAS One year old.

Trackwork: Suffered a catastrophic fracture to his off-fore fetlock and the near foreleg with palpable fractures to both sesamoid bones.

Euthanised. 19/10/22, Queanbeyan, NSW.

BACCHANAL LADY Four years old.

Trackwork: The mare collapsed and died after trackwork from exercise associated cardiorespiratory dysfunction. 12/11/22, Canberra, ACT.

MEGATON Three years old.

Trackwork: Acutely lame following trackwork, the gelding was found to have suffered biaxial displaced comminuted fractures of his proximal sesamoid bones so was euthanised. 25/11/22. Rosehill, NSW.

SPIDER BROWN Three years old.

Trackwork: The gelding collapsed and died from sudden cardiorespiratory failure. 20/12/22, Queanbeyan, NSW.

CHICOUVER Three years old.

Trial: The filly sustained a fracture to her pelvis and was euthanised. 17/1/23, Doomben, QLD.



Chicouver

5.6 Death of Unnamed or Unknown Horses

All horses who are raced must be given an official racing name. When we refer to unnamed horses in this report, we are referring to horses who have died before this has occurred, 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). It is even easier for the deaths of such horses to go unnoticed. Five deaths of unnamed and unknown horses were reported to have occurred this racing year, two of which with trainers who did not alert racing officials of the deaths, but they just happened to be found out. CPR remains deeply concerned for the countless unnamed horses who are born into racing each year who so easily vanish without a trace.

Two unknown horses sustain skull fractures

"Racing NSW inquiry into animal abuse investigates Ballina horse trainer" That was the headline in The Echo on 10 May 2023. The article reported: A spokesperson for the group of concerned people, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of backlash from Racing NSW, says the organisation has a tendency to brush things under the rug. "They tend to victimise people that stand forward about things – anyone coming forward as a whistleblower will feel their wrath and that possibly will affect their income." The person says that a local trainer, who is well known to other trainers and strappers for their abuse against horses, will have to answer questions about two horses who sustained fractured skulls – amongst other injuries.

CPR brought the article to the attention of Greens MP Abigail Boyd who has sought answers from the NSW Minister for Racing, David Harris, who, at the time of writing was being evasive regarding the matter, including refusing to provide information on who the horses were.

Claims unnamed filly became almost paralysed before being shot

The trainer claims: on the morning of 21 June 2023, when being led at his registered stable precinct, a two-year-old unnamed gelding became startled, escaped from his handler, and collided with a post and rail timber fencing. He flipped over, sustaining a significant injury to his spinal cord so was euthanised.

Colt's body disposed of without approval

An unnamed colt died for reasons not known to us and was disposed of. His trainer was fined \$1,000 for failing to notify of his death and for disposing of his body without written approval.

Flipped and injured spinal cord

The trainer claims: on the morning of 21 June 2023, when being led at his registered stable precinct, a two-year-old unnamed gelding became startled, escaped from his handler, and collided with a post and rail timber fencing. He flipped over, sustaining a significant injury to his spinal cord so was euthanised.

5.7 Stable Deaths and Deaths in Transit

Whilst monitoring racing deaths throughout the year, CPR also came across a number of deaths that occur in the stables where the horses are kept. To not be misleading, these deaths are not recorded in the deathwatch statistics unless the cause of death can be directly attributed to the horse being used as a racehorse.

Whilst some of these horses and their causes of death have not been included in our overall statistics, it is important that their deaths be acknowledged in this report.

Almost all the transport and stable deaths we discovered occurred in New South Wales, as they are the only state to occasionally report the details of stable deaths in their stewards' reports. Additional stable deaths and deaths in transit do occur across the country, but without any government or industry requirement to report this information to the public, most deaths go unnoticed.



Dance Session

DANCE SESSION Four years old.

Developed bacterial meningitis. Euthanised.

CITY BEATS Six years old.

Immediately upon arrival at the racecourse, *City Beats* became fractious and cast in the float, sustaining a serious knee injury. Euthanised. *City Beats* was found to be lame post-race four times prior to this incident.

TRICIA'S STAR Four years old.

The filly was reported to have been found in her box one morning unable to move. She had sustained a broken pelvis. No information on whether she was in training the day prior was provided.

MAGGIE WILL Four years old.

Escaped from the yard onto a public road and sustained a fracture to her radius. Euthanised.

THE ONION THIEF Five years old.

The mare *"flipped out"* in the float enroute to the racetrack sustaining a severe laceration near her stomach. Euthanised.

FIRSTHAND Nine years old.

Died from colic not long after final race. Trainer claimed there was no point seeing a vet for \$10,000 just to have them die on the table and that the gelding was *"at the end of his racing career anyway."*

PRIDE OF PENRAF Three years old.

Died whilst being transported to Randwick Equine Centre of suspected complication of antibiotic treatment for respiratory infection.

ORDESA Six years old.

After being raced at Morven in Queensland, *Ordesa* suffered acute intestinal volvulus and died during vet treatment.

STATUE OF DREAMS Six years old.

Broke her leg while being transported back to stables after being raced. Euthanised.

DYNAMITE GREY Four years old.

Injured during race and sent to be spelled where he was reported to have been injured again on a fence and treatment could not save him.

PANDERING Five years old.

The mare developed colic and was euthanised.

LORD JAYSEA Six years old.

Developed a large tumour on his kidney. Euthanised.

GLENBURN HOTEL Five years old.

Severe colic. Euthanised by veterinary surgeon.

MY MARLAINA Four years old.

Developed colic in the evening after being raced. Euthanised.

TENNESSEE BEACH Four years old.

The mare was a late scratching from the races when it was revealed she was suffering from colic. She deteriorated throughout the evening and was subsequently euthanised.

MOSCOW MULE Six years old.

The last time *Moscow Mule* was raced he was made lame in his near forelimb. His trainer claims the gelding recovered but had become too dangerous to keep alive, refusing to take part in trackwork. He also claimed *Moscow Mule's* previous owner was aware of this but failed to pass on the information.

DANTAIN'S MAGIC Five years old.

The mare was involved in a vehicle accident enroute to the races. The injuries she sustained which led to her death are unknown.

TEXAS STAR Four years old.

It was reported that Texas Star developed twisted bowel and was euthanised. This mare was known for being *"unruly"*. The last time she was sent to the racetrack, *Texas Star* dislodged her rider in the mounting yard and escaped. She then galloped back toward the tie-up stall area, however when jumping the walkway perimeter fencing, *Texas Star* damaged the top of the fencing and sustained severe lacerations to her brisket and inner left thigh.

I'M THUNDERSTRUCK Five years old.

The gelding underwent surgery to have a bone chip removed from his fetlock. He fell whilst in recovery and injured his knee so was euthanised.

RECORD CROP Five years old.

At Wagga on 23 December 2022, *Record Crop* was a late scratching after being fractious to load on the float and sustaining a laceration to her head. A few months later *Record Crop* was scratched again, this time from her trial for kicking in the gates when placed in the barriers. Whilst being transported back to her stables she was again extremely distressed and fractious, injuring both hocks. She was euthanised.

ISLAND BAY BOY Five years old.

The gelding sustained a fractured skull for reasons unknown and was euthanised.

CLEVER CHOICE Seven years old.

Clever Choice was reported to have sustained a compound fracture to her right hind cannon bone whilst in the paddock having a *"freshen up"*.

KENYLUCK Seven years old.

Large tumour found on the geldings' chest. Euthanised.

FLYING CATHAY Four years old.

The mare reportedly *"collided with a corner post"* in the paddock, suffering suspected head trauma. A vet inspected *Flying Cathay* and provided treatment, but she subsequently died.

5.8 Died Past the Winning Post

Of the 168 horses reported to have been killed on the racetrack (or shortly after) due to race related injuries, fifty-one of them made it past the winning post before dropping dead or being killed. Many sustained their injury as they were being pulled up. Others were racing over the finish line whilst already injured. All were being beaten with a whip, shouted at, and/or booted with spurs into their tender flanks to the finish line before or whilst their bodies broke or collapsed.

They were pushed well beyond their limits and died as a result. Like many of the deaths in racing, people watching on would most likely be completely unaware any of the following deaths occurred, as all are recorded as having finished the race. Many even collected winnings from the dead horses.

Just some of their injuries are described below.

D'CLONE Five years old.

On pulling up past the finish line, *D'Clones'* action deteriorated significantly so the jockey dismounted. The gelding had suffered a ruptured superdigital flexor tendon during racing so was euthanised.

CHEEKY FOX Four years old.

Cheeky Fox was found to be lame in her off-foreleg after being raced at Bendigo in September 2022. Less than two weeks later she was about to be raced at Wangaratta when she made contact with the mounting yard gate. A veterinary exam cleared her to run, and she again finished the race lame in the same leg. Then, she was dead. No details regarding her death were made public.

OAKFIELD HIAWATHA Five years old.

Oakfield Hiawatha ran last at Home Hill, Queensland, before he collapsed and was found to be deceased.

MISTA HOLYFIELD Ten years old.

After running second last and returning to the parade ring to be unsaddled at Naracoorte, South Australia, *Mista Holyfield* collapsed and died.

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Star Shilling

STAR SHILLING Four years old.

Star Shilling passed the finish line at the Canberra track then collapsed and died. It is believed she suffered a cardiac event.

THAT'S MY OPINION Five years old.

Shortly after crossing the finish line at Aquis Park, Queensland, That's My Opinion fell and suffered a shoulder injury so was euthanised.

GINGERLAGO Five years old.

During her last race, *Gingerlago* was reported by Geraldton, Western Australia, stewards to have suffered a strained tendon and it was stated she would be retired. It was later found her tendon had been ripped from her bone and she was euthanised.

SYSTEMIC Four years old.

Systemic crossed the finish line at Grafton, New South Wales, with a fractured sesamoid bone and partial rupture to his suspensory ligament. He was then euthanised.

6 EXERCISE-INDUCED PULMONARY HAEMORRHAGE

624 horses in Australia were reported to have suffered bleeding of the lungs, or exercise-induced pulmonary haemorrhage (EIPH) while being raced within this racing year, compared to 623 in the previous year and 548 the year before. This equates to 1.7 horses suffering EIPH so severely that it has caused them to **bleed through their nose** on the racetrack every day.

There were a number of horses recorded as having bled internally, resulting in death.

Wild Wind

On 23 August 2022 at Mackay, *Wild Wind* collapsed and died on track as a result of an internal bleed. It was a gruesome scene as the five-year-old gelding crashed through the railing just prior to the finish line and rolled down the slope. She tried to get up several times but was unable before succumbing to her massive internal bleed caused by being pushed so hard.





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Also in Queensland and within a day of each other, both *Templar* and *V J Day* suffered EIPH immediately after being raced resulting in death. Both were seven years old.

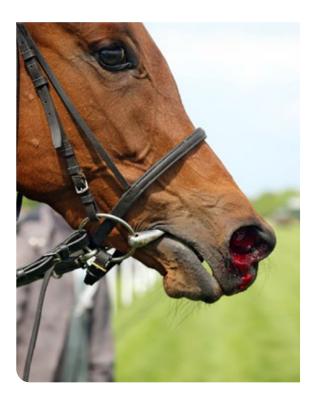
Spirit De Lune

On 22 July 2022, Spirit De Lune suffered exercise-induced pulmonary haemorrhage so badly whilst being raced at Mildura that the blood came through both of his nostrils. One year later, on 1 July 2023 at Echuca, the same thing happened to the five-year-old gelding. Being his second two nostril EIPH bleed on record, he was banned from ever being raced again. The trainer claims Spirit De Lune went down in the float as he was being transported the two hours back to his stables while he was still bleeding. He got the gelding up, moved him into the paddock where he collapsed again. It was there that Spirit De Lune was shot.



With just 1% of bleeds being detectable via visible blood in the nostrils, this year's count of 624 horses presenting this way after being raced indicates horses finished a race with blood in their lungs to varying degrees on 61,776 occasions.

In Australia, the first time a horse is reported to have suffered from EIPH during a race with blood visible in both nostrils, they are banned from racing for three months; the second time they are banned for life. However, the vast majority of bleeds go undetected. A horse with blood visible in only one nostril is not banned or suspended. They are just required to perform a 1000m gallop to the satisfaction of the stewards'.



7 SELF-DETERMINATION IGNORED

Horses are observed to exhibit their fear and distress daily at any given racetrack. Sometimes they refuse to load into the barriers, some buck in the mounting yard, many become fractious enroute to the starting gates. As a result of their non-compliance, these horses are often given a warning for their *"manners"*. Not only are they expected to submit but expected to submit quietly and without fuss.

The barriers are a common place for such defiance. Horses don't like confined spaces and must be trained/coerced to go in because it goes against all their natural instincts. Some horses are rejected from racing simply because they can't be made to go into the barriers. In just about every race day report, you can read stewards' comments on incidents at the gates, referred to as "difficult to load", "unable to load", "fractious in barriers", "became cast in barriers", "broke through the gates", "dislodged rider", "leg stuck in gates", "reared at the gates".

Of the horses who were killed on track this year, thirteen had expressed their defiance to entering the gates so strongly on at least one and up to five occasions, that they had received a warning or temporary suspension from racing.

Just some examples of this are featured in the following pages.

Trying to burrow under the gates

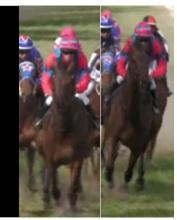
Make False Report was often expressing his fear and objections to being forced into the barriers. So much so that on two occasions he was scratched at the last moment from the race.

The first time, he was so terrified he tried to burrow out under the front of the barrier and on veterinary advise was deemed *"unsuitable to race"*. The second time he threw himself around so much he injured his jockeys' leg and was again scratched.

A few months later, *Make False Report* was forced to race at Healesville when he fell 300

metres prior to the post, sustaining a *"serious racing injury"* and was euthanised on the track.

REST IN PEACE MAKE FALSE REPORT





Silleact sustains severe head trauma – the jockey, a broken nose

Silleact was what industry people refer to as a "barrier rogue". His determination was so strong he had been suspended from being raced on two previous occasions before his final effort to not be raced took his life.

The first suspension was due to *Silleact* rearing and jumping in the air, unbalancing his rider, and contacting another horse. Before the second, *Silleact* reared, became extremely fractious and broke through the front of the barriers.

Not long after, the four-year-old gelding was sold online where his defiance to racing was never declared (however, information on his previous suspensions is publicly available).



In his first trial under his new trainer, *Silleact* was again forced into the barriers against his will when he *"reared badly several times"* resulting in his rider sustaining a broken nose and him fluid flowing from his ear and nose from a severe head trauma that led to his death.

Objections and fear were clear

Yowza's objections to being forced into the barriers were so extreme that the seven-year-old gelding had received two warnings and three suspensions from racing in the eighteen months leading up to his death.

In January 2022, at the Strathalbyn track in South Australia, Yowza "became fractious in his barrier after being loaded. He underwent a pre-race veterinary examination who ruled the gelding unfit to race. A warning had been placed on the gelding, in relation to its barrier manners." Three months later in Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Yowza was again scratched from the race on veterinary advice after "a mishap in the barriers". on veterinary advice after "a mishap in the barriers".

The following month, again at Alice Springs, *Yowza* reared and got both legs over the top of the barriers. He was passed fit to race but then *"refused to load"* and was subsequently scratched and suspended from racing.

At the Darwin track on 31 December 2022,

Yowza was again suspended for *"refusing to load into the barriers".*

On July 1, Wondai, Queensland, *Yowza "proved difficult to load and delayed the start of the race."*

Just two weeks later, *Yowza* was being raced at the Gympie track when he fell just before the final 200 metres and sustained a compound fracture to his off-foreleg cannon bone. His bone pierced the skin. His suffering was so evident he was immediately euthanised.



8 EUTHANASIA OFF TRACK

If a racehorse has suffered injuries, is suffering pain, and it is apparent the injury cannot or will not be given the time, money, and energy to allow for recovery, immediate euthanasia is in the best interest of the animal's welfare. This racing year, a large increase in horses who sustained an injury during a race were not euthanised on track. CPR has noted several horses that suffered injuries on track and were not euthanised at that time, but rather euthanised a short time later off track. This is often an attempt to minimise public reproach when these injuries and deaths occur, and an attempt to obscure the number of horses dying due to racing. The prolonged suffering of horses who are transported off track and euthanised up to several days later, is highly unethical. Just some examples:

Devonport horse transported with a broken leg and killed – authorities failed to update his status for two months

On 11 January 2023, at the Devonport track in Tasmania, *Gee Gees Flyby* was eased down in the final stages of the race, having displayed *"soreness in her near foreleg"*. The four-year-old mare was transported three hours back to her stable where she was found to have suffered a broken leg that ran all the way down to her fetlock. She was euthanised. Authorities did not update her status record to deceased until over two months later.

Transported with a broken leg and killed - authorities failed to update his status for six weeks

On 14 April 2023, at the Seymour track in Victoria, *Our Valley Star* ran third before being loaded back into his float where he became cast before leaving the racecourse. Track vets reportedly ordered he be transported to the vet with *"severe lacerations to both hindlegs."* The vet was over two hours way. They found the three-year-old gelding had a broken leg. He was euthanised the next day, yet authorities did not update his status record to deceased until six weeks later.

Forced onto float unable to bear weight

On July 13, 2023, at the Grafton track in New South Wales, Snazz 'n' Charm "commenced to shorten stride and was retired from the event". The six-year-old gelding was reported by onsite vets to have been 5/5 lame in his off-hind limb, unable to bear weight. Stewards allowed the horse to be transported back to the trainers' stables, a three-hour journey, before being seen by a vet the following morning and euthanised. Eyewitnesses claim, "his leg was definitely broken."



Andrew Dale came to our attention after three of his horses were transported off the track with serious injuries before being euthanised this racing year alone, and for the extreme frequency of which he races his horses.

Andrew raced *Lotus Land* thirteen times in less than three months, across country Victoria and New South Wales. On 11 February 2023, at the Tumut track, *Lotus Land* crossed the finish line first, before being found to be 4/5 lame. The three-year-old mare was transported three hours back to Dale's stable where she was diagnosed with a comminuted fracture to her third metacarpal bone in her off forelimb and was euthanised.

Six-year-old mare, *Wynsome Maid*, was raced twenty-three times over two and a half years before being transferred to training under Andrew Dale. In just one year he raced her twenty-eight times (twice in two days on one occasion) before she finally broke down at Berrigan on 4 March, 2023.

Wynsome Maid failed to finish the race, pulling up 4/5 lame. She was transferred off course and according to Dale was found to have suffered a displaced fracture of her medial proximal sesamoid bone and was euthanised. Stewards later reported that after interviewing the trainer and checking his stable and treatment records, they found no evidence that the mare had a pre-existing condition that would have led to her breaking down and as such the inquiry was concluded. The extreme frequency she was being raced appears to have been of no consideration or concern.

Whilst being raced in Echuca on 28 July 2023, Andrew Dale trained gelding, *Vanburg*, felt *"amiss"* at the 600 metres so was pulled up from the race. He was found to be *"significantly lame"* and transported off course for veterinary treatment. He was deceased not long after.

So long as racing persists, CPR is calling for all racetracks to immediately install x-ray machines and whatever equipment is required for a thorough diagnosis to be made at the track and to commence working towards a system where all horses are CT scanned prior to being raced – something that currently only occurs for horses running in the Melbourne Cup.









REST IN PEACE VANBURG



10 OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS

10.1 Horror Scenes at Perth Cup 2023

The running of the 2023 Perth Cup was described by media as *"chaos"* and resulted in the death of *Chili is Hot*. The five-year-old mare suffered fatal injuries after contacting the heels of *Buster Bash*, causing her legs to go from under her as she crashed to the ground. *Dam to Shoot* also suffered injuries trying to step over *Chili is Hot* unsuccessfully and also falling on the track. The jockey of *Buster Bash* was charged with careless riding and suspended from racing for six weeks. This was his third careless riding offence in six months.

Seven News reported "Perth Racing chief executive James Oldring accepted it was a mistake to drive Chili Is Hot's body in a trailer down the home straight in front of 11,000 fans" making it clear putting the reality of horse racing right in front of punters faces is not good for business.



The tragic death of Chili is Hot and injuries suffered by Buster Bash shocked attendees at the Perth Cup.

They went on to report:

But he did not regret running the final race and going ahead with a concert to conclude the event.

"People were there to see racing," Oldring said.

"The racing industry is a high-risk sport. Racing goes on despite incidents such as the cup tragedy." Had it been a jockey that lost their life that day, there's no doubt the remainder of the event would have been cancelled. But with a horse dying on Australian racetracks every two days, this is simply business as usual. The only reason the death of *Chili Is Hot* received such wide media coverage was because the event was the Perth Cup.



Perth Racing officials came under fire for driving Chili is Hot's body down the home straight infront of fans. Credit 7NEWS

Full article available here.

CPR volunteers were protesting outside the Perth Cup that day and reported the crowd to be solemn as they left the track, a stark difference from the attitudes they expressed as they entered. Perhaps now they will listen.



Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses volunteers protesting outside the Perth Cup reported a stark difference in the crowd's feeling after the death of Chili is Hot.

10.2 Missing or Edited Video Replays

Whilst the horse racing industry professes to be *"open and transparent"*, nowhere are its actions more in complete contrast to this than when it comes to its racing replays (or lack thereof).

Every year since CPR has been exposing the tragic reality of racing horses, replays where a horse has died are becoming increasingly more difficult to find. From editing out sections of the race to blatantly failing to even upload it at all when a death occurs – the industry has no shame in clearly hiding evidence of horse suffering and death. This year, some states have been so deceptive, they have occasionally uploaded the replay of a different race entirely.

Of the many races where a horse was reported to have been killed, 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 twenty-six occasions (nine times more than last year). Of the twenty-six deaths whose replays were either not uploaded or edited, twelve were from Victoria. CPR has expressed our disappointment and questioned Racing Victoria for consistently covering up the truth, only to be met with excuses and refusal to improve transparency. It is not good for business if the public are able to see vision of horse's legs snapping, dropping dead, or smashing through rails. A perfect example of the horror racing does not want to show you can be seen **here**.

Racing Queensland have also made more effort to hide horse suffering this racing year, whilst Racing NSW appear to have stopped bothering – with evidence of them doing so on just one occasion.

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.

5	1400m 3:04pm TAB RATINGS BAND 0 - 58 HANDICAP 1400M 0 - 58 1200m 3:42pm	Prize Money \$20,000: \$11,000 / \$3,500 / \$1,900 / \$950 / \$650 / \$400 / \$400 / \$400 / \$400 / \$400 Time: 1-22.90 Last 600m: 36.37 WATCH MONEY #0 REPLAY Prize Money \$20,000: \$11,000 / \$3,500 / \$1,900 / \$950 / \$650 / \$400 /	+ SHOW RESULTS
TAB RATINGS BAND 0 - 58 HANDICAP 1200M 0 - 58	\$400 / \$400 / \$400 Time: 1-10.87 Last 600m: 36.31 ⓒ WATCH औREPLAY	+ SHOW RESULTS	
7	800m 4:20pm TAB BENCHMARK 62 HANDICAP 800M BM62	Prize Money \$20,000: \$11,000 / \$3,500 / \$1,900 / \$950 / \$650 / \$400 / \$400 / \$400 / \$400 / \$400 Time: 0-44.91 Last 600m: 33.16 OWATCH	+ SHOW RESULTS

Dalby, QLD 6/6/23 Regular vision is not actually there (replaced with a freeze frame) and the Stewards Vision is not uploaded for Race 7 only which showed eight-year-old *Miralie* suffer a fractured foreleg where his bone pierced through his skin.

11 CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1 Kenya dead – jockey career ends

Kenya was bred in Ireland. After being raced nine time he was sent to Australia. Four races and two trainer transfers later, he was sold to Kane Harris Racing in April 2022 for \$20,000.

His online sale listing featured photos of *Kenya's* conformation which were very concerning. When CPR showed these to an equine veterinarian with decades of experience they stated *"I believe I can see serious hoof capsule / feet problems that should have been corrected before racing. That is, in my opinion, the horse in the provided photo should have been deemed "unfit" to race without remedial farriery." The sale listing also supplied a veterinary report explaining Kenya was recovering well from an injury to his right-fore suspensory ligament.*

Harris was quick to spruik the huge earning potential of the seven-year-old gelding across social media, selling shares in him and talking up his preparation. On August 2, 2022, jockey Michael Walker was reported to have been involved in a "horror fall", after the horse he was riding collapsed under him. Walker suffered major head trauma and was airlifted to hospital where he was put into an induced coma for several days. We were able to ascertain the horse was *Kenya* and he had died, even though not one media outlet mentioned him in their reporting on the incident. The racing authority failed to update *Kenya*'s status until months later, listing his deceased date as 21 November 2022.

A week after the incident, jockey Michael Walker stated *"I am still alive but, I promise you, I am not who I used to be."* Six months later he had no choice but to retire from racing *"With the brain injury, it's just something that I'll never be able to do again."*

As far as CPR is aware, there was never an inquiry into the fall and subsequent death of *Kenya*. He was never mentioned again on the Kane Harris Racing socials.



SPORT

Top NZ jockey seriously injured at Pakenham racecourse

10:28 pm on 2 August 2022

Share this 🕐 🗗 📴 🧐 💼

Top Kiwi jockey Michael Walker is in intensive care with a concussion, after a racing accident in Victoria.



Group 1 jockey Michael Walker remains in

racenet	Q least facent is house jobeys taken, a nettrip.
Q 14.000	Norse - Lanex News -
IQ Recent IQ	-
E Labort News -	Walker reveals health battle: "I am not who I used to be'
Viders	
D Fields and Farm	
C Expet Feel +	
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	WALKER

HORSE RACING

Star jockey Michael Walker forced to retire following life-changing brain injury

The 39-year-old's injury-cursed career is over after a horror fall in 2022.

Articles detailing Michael Walker's injuries after his "horror fall" from Kenya.

Case Study 2

Severe and Extensive Injuries Suffered by Gogethergirl

Early morning on 9 December 2022, *Gogethergirl* was completing trackwork at Queanbeyan in New South Wales. On approaching the winning post, the mare *"hung left sharply and shied"* dislodging her rider. She was not examined by the vet until later that day and was diagnosed with a spinal injury with grade 4/5 lameness in her left foreleg and both hind legs, wide base hoof placement and other additional symptoms of spinal injury displayed. *Gogethergirl* was then euthanised. She was six years old.

REST IN PEACE GOGETHERGIRL



Case Study 3 Florescent Star Smashes Headfirst into the Turf

On 18 March 2023 at Moonee Valley in Victoria, 5-year-old mare *Florescent Star* was watched by thousands of racegoers at the All-Star Mile as she pummelled through the inside rail and lay in the centre of the track for all to see, before a green screen was set up to hide the horror scene. Shocking footage showed the disturbing moment the five-year-old mare fell headfirst into the turf. Jockey Harry Coffey who was also riding in the race on horse *In the Boat*, stated it *"looked a bit yuk", and "that's how racing goes, it's all about luck".*

REST IN PEACE FLORESCENT STAR



Case Study 4 Mista Holyfield Drops Dead

Mista Holyfield had endured sixty-seven races and earned over \$198,000 in prizemoney for his owners. On 18 November 2022 at Naracoorte in South Australia, *Mista Holyfield* completed his last race and, on the way back to the stalls to be unsaddled, he collapsed and died. No reason was given. He was ten years old.

REST IN PEACE MISTA HOLYFIELD



Case Study 5 Dog Tooth Cod Could Not Even Keep Close

In January of 2022, at barely two years old, *Dog Tooth Cod* was trialled for the first time at Tumut, NSW and finished last - way off those ahead of him. In June he was raced for the first time at Wagga Wagga and came last again, this time beaten by thirty-four lengths. Four months later, whilst still under a suspension for his *"poor performance"* he was dead – reported to have sustained a *"traumatic disruption of his left fore fetlock joint"* in trackwork so was euthanised.



39

Case Study 6 Whole tendons "buggered"

Beautiful ten-year-old *Black Smuggler* was raced across Western Australia eighty-eight times before his arduous life ended. His last race was at Kojonup, a six hour round trip, where he ran second last. In fact, *Black Smuggler* had not placed in his last fifteen races, mostly running last or nearly last, before breaking down badly in trackwork. It was then discovered *Black Smuggler* had damage to whole tendons and that his sesamoid bone had moved beyond repair, so he was killed.

REST IN PEACE BLACK SMUGGLER



12 AUSTRALIAN 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.**

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

Australia Wide

Furphy Beer PFD Foods **HLB Wealth Management** Schweppes Gatorade De Bortoli Wines Hygain Horse Products Core Protective/Allied Security Case IH Ag Machinery Iron Jack Beer Cement Australia Hip Pocket Workwear XXXX Dry Beer Four 'n' Twenty **Ranvet Equine Nutrition** Martin Collins Polytrack **Opal Packaging Plus** Hepworths Industrial Wear **Racing & Sports** National Jockey Trust TAB bet365 Sky Racing Ladbrokes Betting Sportsbet Over The Line Racing

New South Wales

Turfco Australia - Jaspers Bush, NSW Mark Hallam Builders - Queanbeyan, NSW Future Finance Group – NSW-wide Brennan & Smith Optometrists - Inverell, NSW Ultrafleet - Gunnedah, NSW Border Bandag - Albury, NSW Club Tumut - Tumut, NSW Better Home Living Con Carr – Finley, NSW Finley IGA - Finley, NSW Entry Education - NSW-wide Koala Farms Macadamia Nut Co - Wollongbar, NSW South Coast Retreat - Greenwell Point, NSW Macquarie Valley Rock & Sand - Narromine, NSW Elmac Electrical - Coffs Harbour, NSW QPP Media - Quirindi, NSW Vantage Windows & Doors - Prestons, NSW Mid Richmond Plumbers & Supplies - Coraki, NSW Contemporary Homes - Orange, NSW ERA Legal - Sydney, NSW

Western Australia

RMH Mechanical - *Meekatharra, WA* Envirapest - *Perth, WA* Glenroy Chaff - *Malabaine, WA* WA Racehorse Owners Association – *WA-wide* Pink Moon Midwest Waste - *Dongara, WA* Azure Painting - *Perth, WA*

South Australia

IN2IT IT Firm - Naracoorte, SA

Tasmania

Leigh Jordan One Agency - Collins Real Estate - *Devonport, TAS* Chilli FM – *Launceston, TAS* Tasmanian Bloodstock - *Hobart, TAS*

Northern Territory

BTC Constructions - Berrimah, NT

Australian Capital Territory

Delkon Carpentry – Canberra, ACT

Queensland

QLD Country Women's Assoc. - QLD-wide Wholesale Sands & Recycling - Jacobs Well, QLD Curly Cattle Transport - Cloncurry, QLD Morgan Pastoral - Dalby, QLD Eureka Stud - Camboooya, QLD Warwick Credit Union - Warwick, QLD Steejo Press - Mount Isa, QLD Hedley Racing - Cairns, QLD Explorers Inn - Roma, QLD Wagners Cement - Goondiwindi, QLD Ensbey Electrical - Warwick, QLD Mort & Co - Toowoomba, QLD DLV Finance - Rockhampton, QLD Gallery Seafood Restaurant - Gold Coast, QLD Entry Education – QLD-wide Brown & Hurley - Toowoomba, QLD Cunnamulla Bakery - Cunnamulla, QLD Mark Bunt Menswear - Rockhampton, QLD Walkers Lawyers - Cairns, QLD Full Power Pressure Solutions - Biloela, QLD Butler McDermott Lawyers - Nambour, QLD AJT Legal - Gympie, QLD Rock Trade Industries - Helidon, QLD

Victoria

Marshman Painting - Ballarat, VIC Mildura MG Car Dealer - Mildura, VIC Entry Education - VIC-wide Pacific Hire - Wangaratta, VIC Big Al's Water - Maiden Gully, VIC DMB Contracting – Geelong, VIC Future Finance Group - VIC-wide Orbit Logistics - Essendon Fields, VIC Terang Co-op – Terang, VIC Kyneton Toyota - Kyneton, VIC Go Seymour Tourism - Seymour, VIC Casterton Racing Club - Casterton, VIC Designer Coolroom – Cranbourne South, VIC Jono & Johno Chainsaw Specialists - Ballarat, VIC O'Connors CIH – Echuca, VIC Caledonian Hotel – Echuca, VIC

13 REST IN PEACE

Kenva City Beats Tricia's Star Maggie Will The Onion Thief Swift Sparkle Forfront D'Clone ZouZouZalo Wild Wind Count De Rupee By Design Frag Kiss 'n' Run **Rich Hips** Cheeky Grace Bustin' Loose Lubuk Pucker Up Palmer Urban Girl Ingear Cheeky Fox Statue of Dreams Wham Connive Disengo Klaire's Approach Ms Thorpedo Dog Tooth Cod **Rebellious Miss** Gossiping Girl Chapeau Bas Jazzy Jasper Reggae Roc Honey Pot Oakfield Hiawatha Good Approach Ruatoria Dane Central Unnamed 2yo filly **Bacchanal Lady Bo Rebellion** Firelock Mista Holyfield Templar. V J Day Timstar

Frosty Beverage Universal Thief Moridan Star Shilling Megaton Eureka Royal Bluebell Miss Fassifern That's My Opinion Rock'em Baby Gogethergirl Kitzbuhel Gossitino Aramis Finance Choice Justonemore Spider Brown Oriental Legend **Risky Lyrics** Gryllus Kesem Needs to Belong Niccanova Chili Is Hot Dannemora Craiglea Agena The Burning Gee Gees Flyby Dastani Here Comes Babbler Chicouver Tonka wakan Green Flash Time to Target Goodscent Cheers Big Ears Moscow Mule Diminutive Jewel Dantain's Magic **Final Statement** Balmagnus Lotus Land Judicator Zou Some Damage Serious I Am Acquiescent Brave Halo

Raidawav Cool Artie Wynsome Maid El Medico Clea Sheer Success Black Smuggler Overkill Grand York Florescent Star Lockitineddy Gingerlago Hedonie Eagle Queen Make False Report Systemic Temple of Artemis I'm Thunderstruck Testa Princess The Beehive Ian's Special Foxhood Katgully Red Crinkle Cutz Our Valley Star **Record** Crop Mofilo Stone Rebel Tantrum Bonniesix Rodian Bull Lady Whistledown Classic Encounter Marius St Arnicca Princess Sparkles Redhair'n'freckles **Epic Decision** Fletcher Road Mo More Chicken Swift Step Pollash Major Max Sir Arminius Silleact Little Trojan Zatara

Cooeebaymagic Miralie Dominique Phere the Ex **Invisible String Duchess Rothesay** Beau Epoch Scare Campaign Unnamed (Nom du Jeu/Mine to Keep) Poet Warrior Cossie World Tour Spirit de Lune Glacier Grey Star Spirit Freycinet Broadway Babe Snazz 'n' Charm Yowza Azaly Fantastic Rock Endless Apollo Vanburg Zooming Zebra Sir Barnabus



We also acknowledge and pay respect to the many horses who sustained an injury during their race and 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