



← One-year-old racehorses awaiting slaughter in a kill pen exposed by CPR and the ABC's 7:30. Watch the exposé for free on YouTube here:



BEHIND THE GLAMOROUS FACADE OF HORSE RACING



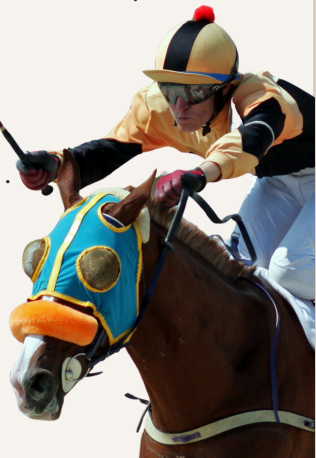
Deaths on the racetrack

The annual Deathwatch report compiled by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses (CPR) reveals that racehorses are killed on the racetrack every two days in Australia. However, racing related deaths occur much more often off track.

These deaths are not 'accidents', but the result of the racing industry deliberately overworking horses to the point of serious injury. Many racehorses begin race training already as yearlings to commence racing at just two years old, despite the fact that horses don't reach skeletal maturity until they're at least five years old.

The average Australian no longer accepts the abuse of animals for human entertainment and gambling.

No other 'sport' in the world would allow one of their athletes to be killed on the track every second day of the year like racehorses are in Australia.



Racehorses killed at slaughterhouses and knackeries

CPR estimates that at least 12,000 horses are 'retired' from racing in Australia every year. With limited homes available and rising costs, it is a very lucky horse who finds a permanent and suitable home after racing. Most will unfortunately be prematurely killed.

Some of the many public scandals relating to the racing industry have been the systematic killing of racehorses at slaughterhouses, knackeries, and private unauthorised kill sites. In 2019, the ABC's exposé 'The Dark Side of Australia's Horseracing Industry' shocked the nation by revealing the brutal killing of an estimated 5,000 racehorses at abattoirs. Some horses had come straight off the racetrack.

Despite repeated requests for transparency, the racing industry discloses very few details about the retirement of racehorses.



WHY people who love horses say NO to horseracing

Horses are gentle, sensitive and herd bound animals whose characteristics are being exploited in every sense by the racing industry that misleads the public by repeating phrases like 'horses love to race' and 'we treat our horses like kings and queens'. **From the horses' perspective, nothing could be further from the truth.**

FORCE Racehorses have no choice. They are forced to comply, being coerced by the use of whips and sharp bits, made to wear painful tongue ties and other restrictive equipment to defeat their natural, protective behaviours against pain and fear.

CONFINEMENT Racehorses in training are commonly confined to stables and unable to exercise freely, graze or socialize with other horses, which are the most basic needs of any horse to feel safe and content.

MENTAL & PHYSICAL STRESS Instead of horses' natural foraging diet, racehorses are fed large volumes of high energy concentrates, often resulting in painful stomach ulcers. This feeding regime combined with confinement creates highly strung horses who often resort to stereotype behaviors in an attempt to cope with the pain and distress.



The legendary Black Caviar was killed in 2024 after giving birth to her ninth foal. Like thousands of other mares, she was forcefully made pregnant every single year from the moment she was 'retired' from the racetrack.

OVERBREEDING of racehorses

- **In pursuit of producing that one unique winner, around 13,000 Thoroughbred foals are bred each year in Australia.**
- **35% of these foals never make it to the racetrack and their whereabouts are unknown to the public.**
- **An estimated 3,000 mares are 'retired' from their breeding purpose every year and also disappear without a trace.**
- **On average the 'career' of a racehorse is less than three years. When a horse is no longer of use to the racing industry, commonly due to injury or poor performance, they are 'retired' and the industry no longer takes responsibility for their welfare.**

HOW you can HELP racehorses






The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses (CPR) has been advocating for racehorses since 2008. We investigate and expose what goes on behind the scenes of the racing industry and lobby decision makers to put an end to the cruelty of horseracing.

Please visit our website horseracingkills.com to learn more. You can also sign up to volunteer or make a donation to support our campaigns.

FIND OUT MORE



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-  [Nup to the Cup](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nuptothecup)
-  [HorseRacingKills](https://www.youtube.com/HorseRacingKills)
-  enquiries@horseracingkills.com

In cooperation with other animal advocacy groups, CPR protests year-round at racetracks across the country as a part of our **#nuptothecup** campaign.

Join the growing movement of compassionate people saying NO to cruelty and YES to partying on Melbourne Cup Day! Visit nuptothecup.org to learn more.

