



DEATH WATCH

2026

AUGUST 1, 2025 — JULY 31, 2026

AN ANNUAL RECORD OF
RACING-RELATED HORSE
DEATHS IN AUSTRALIA



PREPARED BY THE COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RACEHORSES

In Memoriam
160 Fallen Racehorses

AUGUST 1, 2025 — JULY 31, 2026

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1 / ABOUT

Deathwatch Report 2026 is the 13th annual report that summarises deaths of racehorses around Australia over the preceding twelve months. Research and production are by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses (CPR).

Between August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026 (the 'racing year'), CPR monitored every race Australia-wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses.

This report is produced in the interests of transparency and public awareness, as the racing industry does not publish comprehensive and aggregated details of annual numbers and causes of deaths.

Occasionally this report refers to a horse as 'unnamed' or 'unidentified'. In those cases, the horse died during trackwork or other racing related activity and their deaths were not officially reported, or the horse may not yet have an official racing name.

The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses only reports deaths that have been officially verified.

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.

CPR can confirm that every death listed in this report, and the cause of death, has been confirmed via public records, official racing authorities or directly with the trainer or owner of the implicated horse.

In January 2025 the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses received information from Racing NSW, resulting from an application under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) ("GIPA Act"). CPR requested the names of all Thoroughbred racehorses who had been euthanised/killed as a direct result of racing in NSW during the 2023/24 racing year. The list of names provided by Racing NSW was almost three times (2.8 times) as many as CPR had been able to identify via Stewards Reports, industry informants and media articles.

The result of the GIPA confirms our concern, that the true number of racehorses who are euthanised/killed as a direct result of racing, is far in excess of that which can be determined from information available to the public. View our report on the NSW GIPA findings [here](#).

2 / SOURCES OF DATA

Although the CPR are acting in the public interest by preparing a transparent report of events that have been partially funded by the taxpayer, CPR experiences obstruction and deception by the racing industry. Members of the industry often refuse to engage in any conversation. Race footage is routinely edited to omit scenes of injured horses and serious incidents before they are made publicly available.

Again during this racing year, several 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. Several of the deaths revealed in our Deathwatch report would never have been known to the public if compassionate eyewitnesses hadn't notified us.

Whistleblowers from within the industry and the general 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 email us directly at enquiries@horseracingkills.com. Anonymity is guaranteed.



3. KEY FINDINGS

160 HORSE DEATHS

Racehorse death toll for the
2025–2026 racing year

2.2 DAYS

Average time between
each horse death

The number of racing related horse deaths has remained consistently high since CPR began maintaining records in 2014, despite a decrease in races and horses being raced over the most recent years. **This is contrary to the industry's claims that animal welfare standards are improving.**

YEAR	KNOWN DEATHS	RATE
2026	160	1 every 2.2 days
2025	175	1 every 2.1 days
2024	151	1 every 2.4 days
2023	168	1 every 2.1 days
2022	139	1 every 2.5 days
2021	149	1 every 2.5 days
2020	116	1 every 3.2 days
2019	122	1 every 3.0 days
2018	119	1 every 3.1 days
2017	137	1 every 2.7 days
2016	132	1 every 2.8 days
2015	116	1 every 3.2 days
2014	125	1 every 2.9 days

3 / KEY FINDINGS



As evidenced in the NSW GIPA documents, the true number of horse deaths caused by being raced is much greater than what is reported.

Watch our short clip to see how easy it is for deaths to go unreported [here](#).

DIOSA AFRODITA

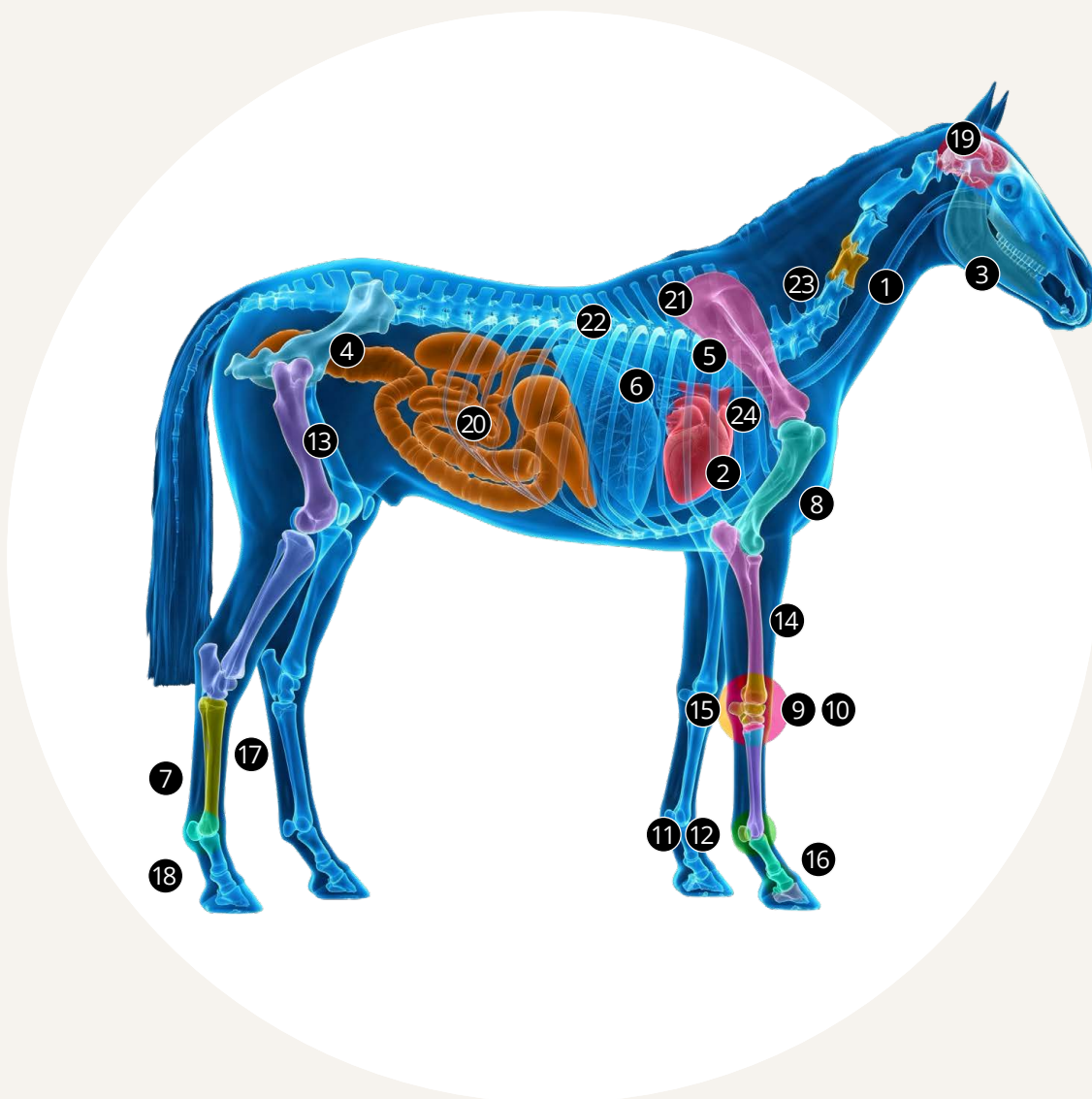
ROCKHAMPTON, QLD · 19 JULY 2026



CASE STORY

According to the official Stewards Report, 2yo **Diosa Afrodita** was eased out of her race and found to be lame at Rockhampton on 19/6/2026. However, when CPR later followed up on her status, it became clear that her injury was more than lameness. She had fractured her front leg and was subsequently killed on the same day she was taken off the track.

**The causes of deaths for
Australian racehorses include:**



- 1 Impaled 2 Heart Attack 3 Severe Trauma to Head and Mouth 4 Fractured Pelvis 5 Fractured Shoulder
6 Internal Bleeding 7 Suspensory Rupture 8 Fracture of the Humerus 9 Shattered/Fractured Carpus
10 Fractured Knee 11 Fractured Sesamoid Bone 12 Bilateral Sesamoid Fracture 13 Fractured Femur
14 Fractured Radius 15 Slab Fracture 16 Snapped Pastern 17 Compound Fracture 18 Fractured Fetlock
19 Brain Damage 20 Starvation 21 Fractured Withers 22 Spinal Injury 23 Broken Neck 24 Exercise-induced
Bleeding from Lungs

4.1 INJURY STATISTICS

This details the types of injuries causing the death or subsequent killing of the **160 racehorses** in 2025/26. The horses who *“collapsed and died”* have likely suffered heart attacks or fatal episodes of exercise-induced bleeding from the lungs, but since the public doesn’t have access to postmortem reports that could reveal the exact cause of death, we have kept the *“collapsed and died”* incidents separate in this report.

Victoria is the state that reveals the fewest details in Stewards Reports about the cause of death and hence Victoria is responsible for the majority of the *“unspecified racing injuries”* and *“undisclosed reason”*.



Recorded injuries and causes of death among 160 racehorses killed or who died during the 2025/26 racing season.



BOURBON COUNTY

BRISBANE, QLD · 11 OCTOBER 2025



CASE STORY

2yo **Bourbon County** came second in his race on 11/10/2025 at Eagle Farm Racecourse in Brisbane. When he was returned to the stalls at the racecourse, he collapsed and died. **Bourbon County** died ten days short of his third birthday.

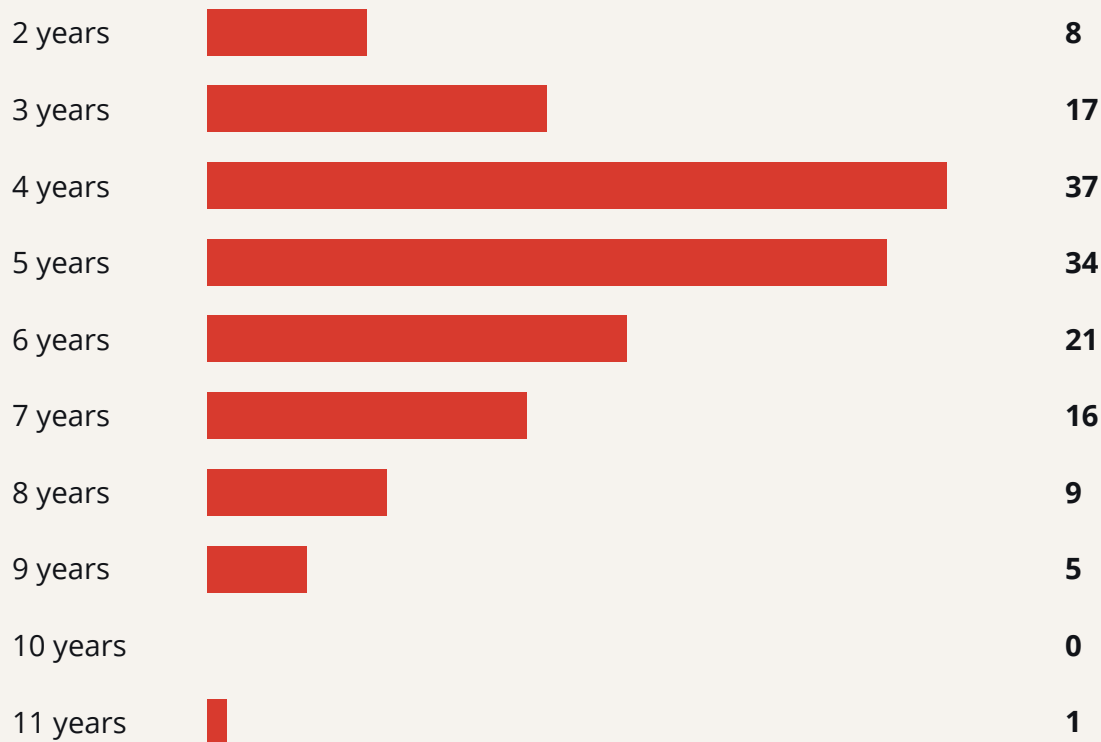
4.2 AGES OF HORSES AT TIME OF THEIR DEATH

65% of the racehorses who were killed from racing in 2025/26 were killed before they were likely to have reached full skeletal maturity.

Immature bones, combined with excessive, strenuous exercise and a breeding regime which favours speed over durability, is the most probable cause of catastrophic injuries to this cohort of racehorses. The cause of catastrophic injuries or sudden death of the six to eleven year old racehorses are likely due to accumulative injuries and excessive strain on their bodies over time.

4 / DEATHS AND INJURIES IN DETAIL

The graph below displays the age of the racehorses at the time of death for those who died or were killed as a result of training or racing, **excluding the racehorses who were killed from neglect and starvation.**



CRAIGLEA MONNIE

THANGOOL, QLD · 27 APRIL 2026



CASE STORY

Despite **Craiglea Monnie** being just two years old, she was forced to race a mammoth ten times over five months. At Thangool on 27/4/2026, her young bones could no longer withstand the pressure. 200m into the race, she fractured her left front leg. **Craiglea Monnie** was subsequently killed.

4.3 RACED AS A TWO-YEAR OLD

The vast majority (nearly 70 percent) of the horses who were killed in the racing year 25/26 had started racing or trialling at two years of age. This means that most of these horses would have been carrying a rider and started race training at the age of just one year old, in order to be ready for the racetrack at two years old.

This is significant because horses don't reach skeletal maturity until they are five to six years old. Until then, horses are at increased risk of bone damage, especially to their legs and their spine, which have not been designed to carry the weight of a rider. For the same reason, equestrian sport regulators such as the FEI don't permit horses under the age of four to compete and, even at this age, only at the lightest introductory level. To the contrary, there is no introductory level in racing, where horses are forced to run as fast as they can before their bones have matured.

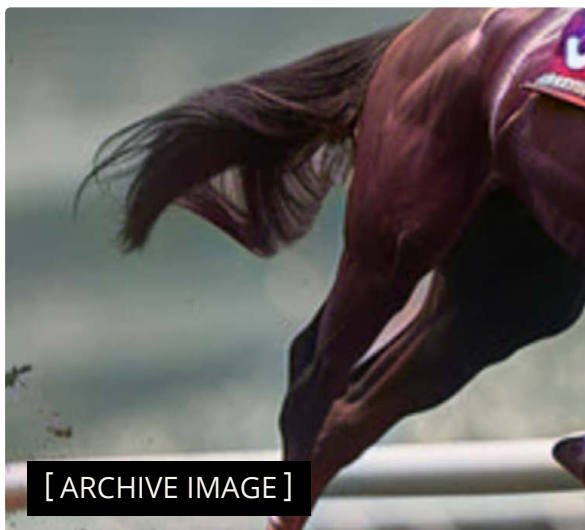
NO
30.4%

YES
69.6%

Raced as a two-year old on Australian tracks between 2025 and 2026.

AWESOME TESS

KILCOY, QLD · 07 OCTOBER 2025



CASE STORY

3yo **Awesome Tess** was ten days away from turning four when she suffered a *"significant pelvic injury"* halfway through her race at Kilcoy. She deteriorated quickly and was subsequently killed. The pelvic and spinal areas on a horse are the slowest growing skeletal parts and do not fuse and fully mature until around 5-6 years of age.

4 / DEATHS AND INJURIES IN DETAIL

4.4 DEATHS BY STATE



5.1 VICTORIA

The number of directly racing related deaths in Victoria are at least 48.

In the 2025/26 racing year, CPR was able to identify and confirm at least 48 racehorse deaths in Victoria that were directly related to the horses being used in racing.

As such, Victoria is responsible for the largest number of racehorse deaths in Australia this past season, despite running approximately one thousand fewer races and racing one thousand fewer horses than the biggest racing state - NSW.

Victoria continues to be the state that reveals the fewest details in Stewards Reports about the causes of death of racehorses on the track and Victoria is thereby responsible for the majority of the *“unspecified racing injuries”* and *“undisclosed reason”* for deaths of racehorses.

Racing Victoria (RV) is in general the least transparent state racing authority. Last year CPR requested information about RV’s **“Onsite Humane Euthanasia Program”** (OHEP), which offers free and confidential euthanasia of racehorses in Victoria and removal of their dead bodies afterwards.

A racehorse is eligible to be killed under this program if they are deemed to be *“dangerous”* at the owner/trainer’s discretion, with no requirement of a veterinary assessment. A racehorse is also eligible to be killed if their owner has not been able to find a retirement home for the horse within two weeks.

5 / INDIVIDUAL STATE REPORTS

However, RV refused to allow public insight into how many racehorses they had killed for the reasons above since OHEP was introduced in 2021.

Below are a couple of case stories from the 2025/26 racing year in Victoria.



CASE STORY #1

6yo Pride of Pariah was killed at Woolamai on 21/3/2026 when he suffered an unspecified "serious racing injury" on the track. Life on the racetrack was tough on Pride of Pariah, who had several embargoes for "poor performance" and had suffered lameness, heat stress and exercise-induced bleeding from the lungs during his short life as a racehorse. Still his owners raced him until his body finally gave in.



CASE STORY #2

On 15/6/2026, **8yo Loch Gorman** was killed after suffering what appeared to be a fractured shoulder when he fell upon landing after an obstacle during a jumps racing trial at Warrnambool. Since it was a trial and not a race, there was no Stewards Report released, and the death of Loch Gorman would never have been known to the public if a volunteer had not been there to monitor and film the jumps racing trials.



CASE STORY #3

4yo Hard Bob placed tenth out of eleven horses at Tatura on 8/9/2025. Right after he passed the finish line, he collapsed on the track, and didn't get up. By the time the racetrack veterinarian got to him, he had died. Hard Bob had been used as a racehorse since he was two years old.

5.2 NEW SOUTH WALES / ACT

CPR can confirm at least 41 deaths directly related to racing in New South Wales/ACT.

In the 2025/26 racing year, CPR was able to identify and confirm at least 41 racehorse deaths in NSW and ACT that were directly related to their use in racing. Unfortunately, we are also aware that this number is far from the true number of racing related deaths.

In January 2025 CPR received information from Racing NSW, resulting from an application under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) ("*GIPA Act*"). CPR requested the names of all Thoroughbred racehorses who had been euthanised/killed as a direct result of racing in NSW during the 2023/24 racing year.

The result of the GIPA confirms our concern that the true number of racehorses who are euthanised/killed as a direct result of racing is far in excess of that which can be determined from information available to the public.

The list of names provided by Racing NSW was almost three times as many (140) as CPR had been able to identify via Stewards Reports, industry informants and media articles (48).

Noting that reporting of racehorse deaths occurring off the racetrack relies entirely on owners and trainers complying with Racing NSW's rules, there is no guarantee that all deaths off the racetrack are reported and counted.

5 / INDIVIDUAL STATE REPORTS

Below are a couple of case stories from the 2025/26 racing year in NSW.



CASE STORY #1

On 18/3/2025, **7yo Sacred Field** sustained a deep laceration to a front limb during training in a round yard. Bones were exposed, and rapid swelling developed around his elbow and shoulder. Despite this, his trainer opted to walk him back to the stable and left him to suffer for seven hours before calling a vet. Sacred Field was immediately euthanised by the vet as soon as they arrived.



CASE STORY #2

3yo Ichiban Koji did not cope well with the pressures of racing. Since he started racing as a 2yo, he was burdened with an extra painful bit, tongue tie, ear plugs and blinkers to force him to comply. On 17/12/2025, he suffered a heart attack mid race. He fell into the running rail and collapsed on the track. He was dead by the time the racetrack vet got to him.



CASE STORY #3

During track work at Taree Racecourse on 12/2/2025, **6yo Reateros** broke down as he fractured his pelvis. His trainer and jockey, a father and daughter duo named Wilkes, declined an offer of a horse transport and forced Reateros to walk the 400m back to the stables. By the time the vet arrived, Reateros had died from abdominal haemorrhage secondary to the fractured pelvis.

5.3 QUEENSLAND

CPR can confirm at least 40 racing related deaths in Queensland this racing year.

In the 2025/26 racing year, CPR was able to identify and confirm 40 racehorse deaths in Queensland that were directly related to the horses being used in racing.

That makes Queensland the state responsible for the highest rate of racehorse deaths per number of active racehorses.

Unfortunately, we are aware this number is still far from the true number of horses killed from racing in Queensland.

Following the [ABC 7:30 documentary](#) *"The Final Race - The dark side of Australia's horse racing industry"*, which exposed the horrific treatment of ex-racehorses at an abattoir in Queensland, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) was made to publish the annual number of racehorses killed both on and off the racetrack.

However, the QRIC is far behind on its transparency publications and has not been able to clarify the number of racehorse deaths it has published so far. In light of this, CPR requested the information via the Right To Information scheme earlier this year.

Racing Queensland has now twice requested extensions to make a decision on releasing the information, and CPR is still awaiting a response.

5 / INDIVIDUAL STATE REPORTS

Below are a couple of case stories from the 2025/26 racing year in Queensland.



CASE STORY #1

4yo Nuestra had already suffered one episode of exercise-induced bleeding from the lungs and been found with cardiac arrhythmia following another race. Still, they kept racing her. On 3/9/2025, she suffered a second bleeding episode. This time it was fatal. When she returned to the tie-up stalls following her race, she collapsed and died on the floor.



CASE STORY #2

2yo Grizzly Bear was killed at his second race trial and never made it into an official race. Because there are no Stewards Reports released for trials, we don't know his exact cause of death. Had it not been for the volunteer who monitored the trials and saw Grizzly Bear breaking down on the track, the public would never have known about his death.



CASE STORY #3

On 15/3/2026 **4yo Overwatch** finished her race at Townsville as number seven out of eight horses. When she was returned to the saddling enclosure, she suffered a fatal heart attack, collapsed and died. Overwatch had been used as a racehorse since she was two years old and never got to know life outside of racing.

5.4 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The number of directly racing related deaths in Western Australia that CPR can confirm is at least 12.

In the 2025/26 racing year, CPR was able to identify and confirm at least twelve racehorse deaths in Western Australia that were directly related to the horses being used in racing. That means one racehorse was killed every month of the year.

Unfortunately, we are aware that this number is far from the true number of horses that were killed from racing in Western Australia. Several of the Western Australian racehorse deaths this year took place off the track and weren't able to be found via the publicly available Stewards Reports. Some of these deaths only became known because CPR was notified by concerned eyewitnesses.

As such, we fear for the safety of the hundreds of horses who suffer injuries on the racetrack and during trials and training, which aren't monitored by Stewards.

Some of what is really going on behind the scenes of the Western Australian racing industry was brought to light earlier this year when Perth trainer Mike Santich was caught on CCTV hitting a racehorse in the face twice with his fist and kicking them in the abdomen.

Then **7News exposed footage**, caught at an earlier stage by a local who happened to walk past Ascot racetrack, showing the same trainer hitting another racehorse repeatedly with a rope, while his partner threw rocks at the horse.

Despite public outrage, Racing and Wagering WA was satisfied with a five-month suspension of Mr Santich's racing licence for his repeated cruel treatment of his racehorses. As a result, Mr Santich will be back training racehorses as of October 2026.

5 / INDIVIDUAL STATE REPORTS

Below are a couple of case stories from the 2025/26 racing year in Western Australia.



CASE STORY #1

3yo Chama had been used as a racehorse since he was two years old. His tongue was tied down and his vision was restricted by blinkers. When his front knee shattered during a race at Ascot on 4/2/2026, his suffering wasn't ended in front of the racegoers. Instead, he was transported off the track before he was killed.



CASE STORY #2

On 4/10/2025, **6yo Starry Heights** ruptured his off fore suspensory ligament on the track and was subsequently killed. A postmortem exam revealed that Starry Heights had been drugged with Ritalin. The prominent training couple responsible for Starry Heights had their trainer licenses suspended over the offence.

5.5 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The number of directly racing related deaths in South Australia that CPR can confirm is at least 11.

In the 2025/26 racing year, CPR was able to identify and confirm at least eleven racehorse deaths in South Australia that were directly related to the horses being used in racing. That means one racehorse in South Australia was killed almost every month of the year.

Unfortunately, we are aware this number is still far from the true number of racehorse deaths. Statistically, we know that at least two times as many racehorses are killed from racing related incidents off the racetrack as the deaths we are able to confirm via Stewards Reports happening on race days.



5 / INDIVIDUAL STATE REPORTS

Below are a couple of case stories from the 2025/26 racing year in South Australia.



CASE STORY #1

Space Equity was eleven years old and had almost survived until the mandatory 12 year old retirement age for racehorses. He had been raced over 100 times including trials, and had won his connections more than \$260,000. But, on 2/12/2025, he returned lame after his race at Morphettville. His status was updated to “deceased” on Racing Australia’s records the same day.



CASE STORY #2

On 14/6/2026, **5yo Be Brave** fractured her pelvis during her race at Balaklava racecourse and was subsequently killed. She had several embargoes on her record, including respiratory issues and being “fractious” at the barriers. Be Brave was born into the racing industry and had been exploited on the track since she was two years old.

5.6 TASMANIA

The number of directly racing related deaths in South Australia that CPR can confirm is at least 3.

In the 2025/26 racing year, CPR was able to identify and confirm at least three racehorse deaths in Tasmania that were directly related to the horses being used in racing, but we know these deaths do not represent the true death toll.

CPR is particularly concerned about the numerous racehorses who have sustained serious injuries during races and then been reported as “retired” on their Racing Australia record by their trainers, because after being reported “retired”, no further updates on the status of the horses are required.

For example, in July 2026 the TasRacing Integrity Unit found the licensed trainer Peter Luttrell guilty of submitting notifications of retirement for four racehorses while he *“failed to responsibly rehome those horses in a way that maintains a focus on the horse’s continuing welfare.”*

These four horses still appear “retired” on their records. A fifth horse, Diamond Sunrise, involved in the same investigation of Mr Luttrell, also appears “retired” on her record. However, it is stated in the investigation report that not only did Mr Luttrell fail to have Diamond Sunrise treated by a vet when she was injured, he also *“arranged to have her killed by an unsuitable person”*.

5 / INDIVIDUAL STATE REPORTS

Below are a couple of case stories from the 2025/26 racing year in Tasmania.



CASE STORY #1

After one race trial, **2yo Freiburg** was entered into her very first race on 31/8/2025. Her first race also became her last when, just 400 metres in, she sustained an injury to her spine, which paralysed her hind legs, and she collapsed on the track. She was subsequently killed.



[ARCHIVE IMAGE]

CASE STORY #2

Following reported concerns over licensed racehorse trainer Tony Kew's property, an inspection found a broodmare with severe, untreated injuries and a retired broodmare, **Miss Dashwood**, "*in extremely poor condition*" with a body score of 1 out of 5. A few months later, Miss Dashwood's status on Racing Australia's records was updated to "*deceased*".

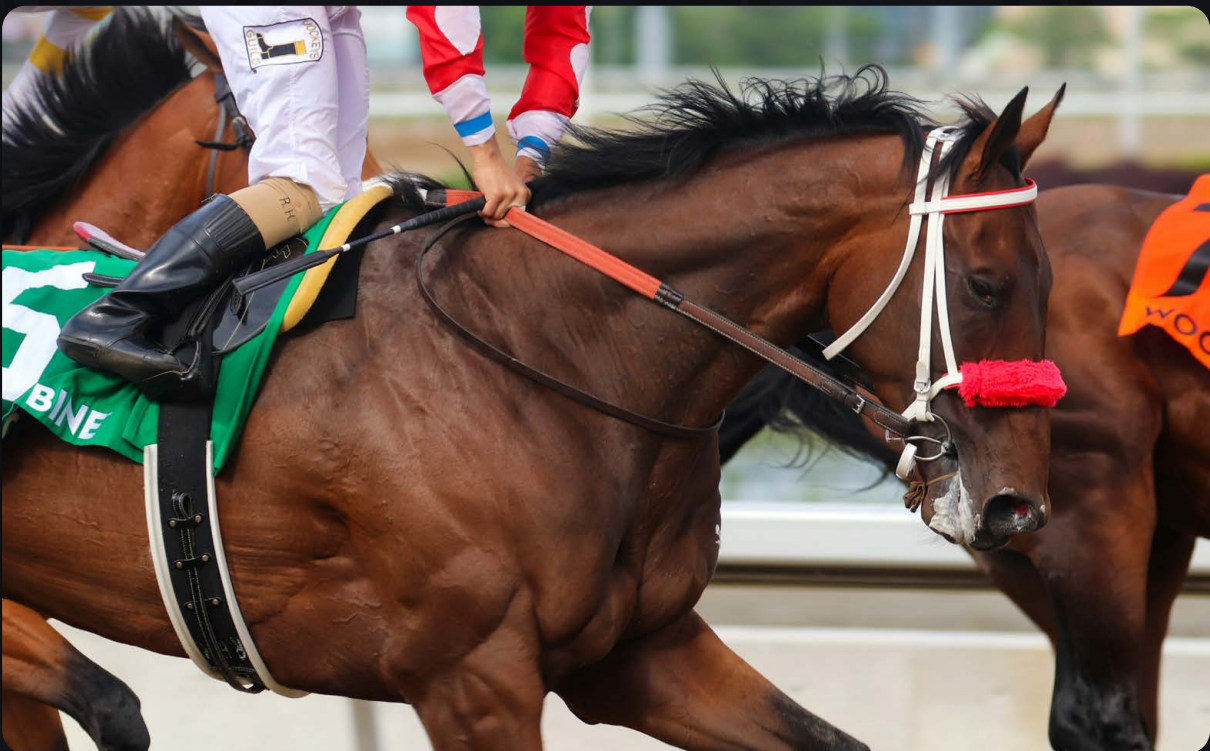
5.7 NORTHERN TERRITORY

The number of directly racing related deaths in the Northern Territory that CPR can confirm is at least 5.

In the 2025/26 racing year, CPR was able to identify and confirm at least five racehorse deaths in the Northern Territory that were directly related to the horses being used in racing.

The total number of Thoroughbreds racing in the Northern Territory is around 550, which means one in every 110 horses who raced were killed in the 2025/26 racing year.

Unfortunately, we are aware this number is still far from the true number of racehorse deaths. Statistically, we know that at least two times as many racehorses are killed from racing related incidents off the racetrack as the deaths we are able to confirm via Stewards Reports happening on race days.



5 / INDIVIDUAL STATE REPORTS

Below are a couple of case stories from the 2025/26 racing year in the Northern Territory.



CASE STORY #1

8yo Acres Midnight had not been raced since 2024 when he reappeared on 28/3/2026. Only seconds into the race, he fractured his shoulder and was subsequently killed. It appears from Acres Midnight's records that, only one month prior, he was suspended from racing on undisclosed veterinary grounds.



CASE STORY #2

On 21/6/2026, **6yo Pompeii Empire** came first over the finish line and it cost him his life. As he passed the winning post, he fractured his fetlock, and was subsequently killed. His owners still pocketed \$17k for winning the race. Pompeii Empire was raced since he was two years old and had won over \$200k for his connections.



RACEHORSES STARVED TO DEATH

The very limited references to racehorse welfare in the Australian Rules of Racing include what should be a given for any person caring for animals: Licensed racing personnel who are responsible for a racehorse are obligated to provide the horse with veterinary treatment when required, sufficient and appropriate feed, and access to clean water.

Nevertheless, at least 12 racehorses during the 2025/26 racing season in Australia have been starved and neglected to death.

These horses have either been found dead from starvation and thirst by concerned whistleblowers, or they have been euthanised as a last resort because of their severely emaciated state and consequent irreversible medical conditions, after reports from witnesses prompted inspections from authorities.

Disturbingly, these twelve deaths are **only the cases that have been published** by the implicated state racing authorities, and where the fatal outcome for the horses were specified in the decision/investigation reports.

Several other racehorses were mentioned in the same investigation reports and in separate additional reports. **Given the descriptions of the devastating body conditions of these additional horses, they are most likely deceased as well.**

When thousands of racehorse breeding and training properties around the country aren't subject to routine welfare inspections, racehorses are left to depend on whistleblowers or caring members of the public to report incidents of neglect before it's too late.

CPR dreads to think how many additional cases have gone unreported or have not been investigated. **Cases like these certainly don't fit into the racing industry's claims of treating their horses like kings and queens.**

CITY LIMITS

VICTORIA · 12 JANUARY 2026

CASE STORY

This image shows how 6yo **City Limits** was found by a neighbour to the property on 12 January 2026. Dead from starvation and thirst, still wearing his racing plates, except for one that had fallen off. **City Limits'** owner, the Racing NSW licensed stablehand Brian Carey, had brought him to this property in Victoria in October, after he sustained an injury during race training.

City Limits was allegedly brought there to recover from his injury. Members of Brian Carey's family with "*limited horse husbandry experience*" were left in charge of him. Brian Carey did not return to check on his horse until three months later, after the neighbour found City Limit's lifeless body collapsed across the fence line and alerted authorities of her horrific discovery.

The emaciated condition of City Limits' body had been hidden under a rug, which wasn't removed until the neighbor found him. The sufferings City Limits must have gone through in the hottest part of the year, with no shade, water or feed, is beyond comprehension.

When the story hit social media and caused public outrage, Racing NSW was swift to **lay charges** against Brian Carey. However, as per usual when the industry is allowed to regulate itself, the penalty never matches the offence.

Racing NSW was satisfied with a suspension of Carey's racing license for 16 months and no fine or criminal charges. Unbelievably, when Carey appealed the length of the suspension, Racing NSW actually reduced it down to 13 months. Within the one year Brian Carey owned City Limits, he pocketed more than \$60,000 from racing him.



OVERBREEDING AND RACEHORSE “WASTAGE”

In addition to on track deaths, a large number of horses who are deemed of no use to the racing industry are killed behind the scenes. Racing refers to this as industry ‘*wastage*’. The killing and disposal of horses occurs throughout the various stages of the racing system, and in every country that conducts horseracing.

A peaceful retirement is far from reality for most mares in the racing industry. After they are ‘retired’ from racing, many have a second purpose - to produce more racehorses. Over 18,000 mares are used for breeding each year.

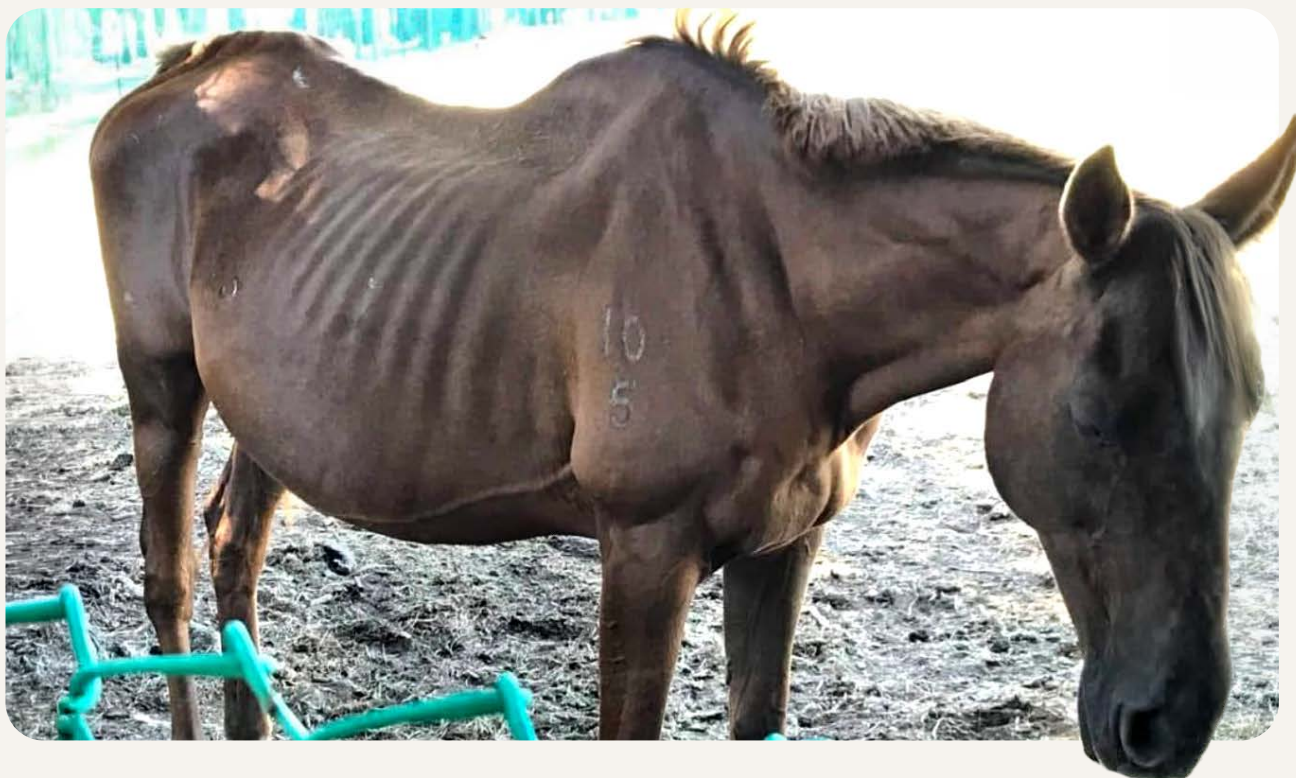
Around 35 percent of the Thoroughbred foals who are registered to race each year (approximately 4,000 foals) **never even make it to the racetrack**. The outcome for these foals is unknown. These foals are also referred to by the racing industry as “*wastage*”.

The births of an unknown number of foals are not registered at all. Some reports suggest this can occur because a foal’s physical attributes indicate they are unlikely to develop as ‘*successful*’ racehorses. **These foals too are discarded and disappear**, without being accounted for in any of the figures that are disclosed by the industry.

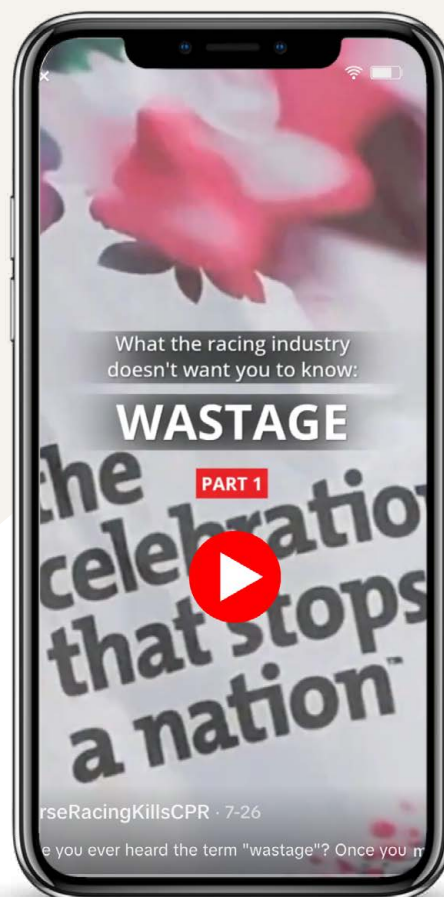
The mothers of these foals are another source of “wastage” from the racing industry. More than 18,000 mares are impregnated each year, and year after year, until they become unproductive. At that point in time, there are no records of their fate, and CPR estimates that at least **3,000 retired broodmares disappear without a trace every year**.

Around the same number of horses who commence racing every year will also be retired from racing every year. This means that the racing industry needs to come up with at least 10,000 new homes for retired racehorses every single year, **which has created a massive over-supply of ex-racehorses**. As a result, many horses are left with inexperienced owners, many more are abandoned and neglected, and others are simply killed prematurely.

Support CPR’s petition to limit overbreeding and ensure the industry provides funds to ensure that every horse who is bred and used by the racing industry has a safe, lifelong retirement. **Add your name here.**



Watch our
*5 part video
series* about
racehorse
wastage on
TikTok **here.**



SELF-PRESERVATION BEHAVIOURS

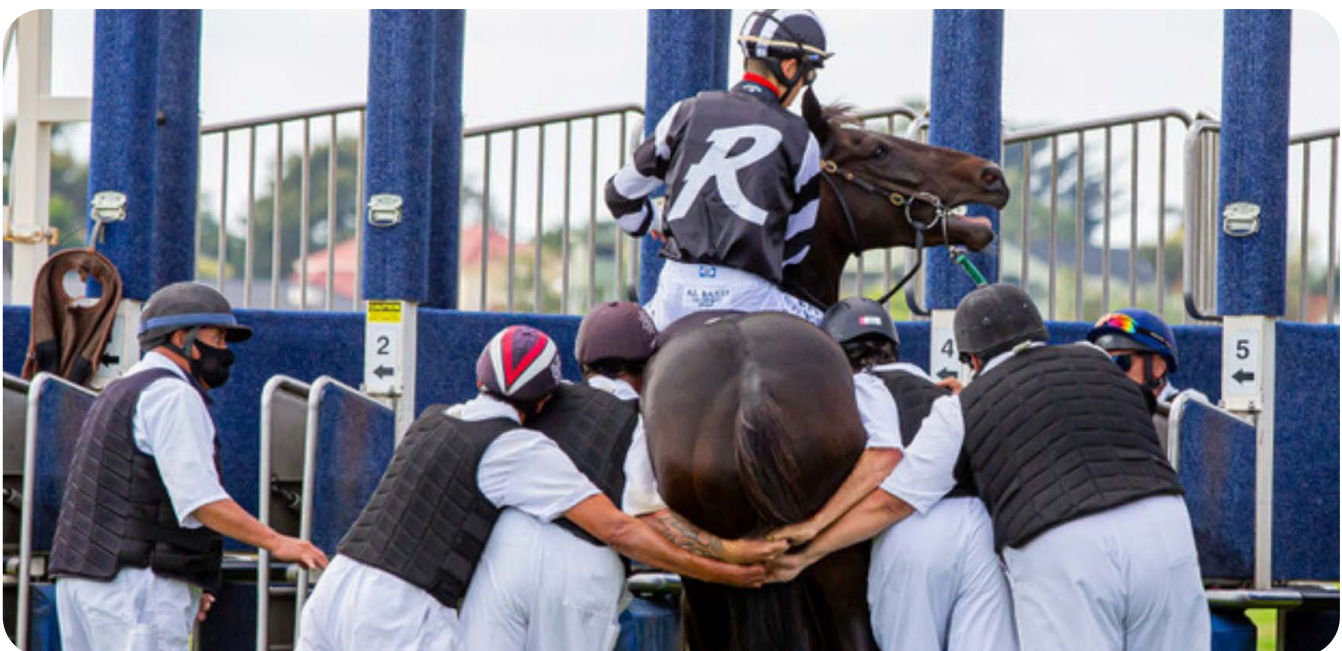
Horses express their fear, distress and pain through conflict behaviour, which can be observed on a daily basis at any given race track.

CPR conducted a case study on the prevalence of instinctive self-preservation behaviours in horses on racedays based on data from Stewards Reports over three months (1/12/2025 - 28/02/2026) in three different Australian racing states.

There were 202 race meetings in that period, and 252 mentions of horses being “*fractious*”, which is the most common description the racing industry uses in Stewards Reports for horses who display significant conflict behaviours.

A common cause of distress occurs at the start barriers. Horses are naturally cautious about confined spaces that they can’t escape from, and forcing them only adds to the fear and distress. Mentions of “*fractious*” in CPR’s case study were often accompanied by comments such as;

- + Refused to proceed to the barriers
- + Unable to be loaded
- + Difficult/reluctant to load
- + Bucked or reared up
- + Dislodged rider
- + Legs or head stuck in gates
- + Broke through the gates
- + Dug under the gates



8 / SELF-PRESERVATION BEHAVIOURS

Some horses were scratched from their race due to their behaviour and/or sustaining injuries and were given a warning for “*bad manners*”. Most horses in our case study, however, were pushed to continue.

Disturbingly, many of the horses who were made to continue returned from their race either lame or otherwise injured. In these cases, the conflict behaviours displayed pre-race were most likely the horses’ way of communicating that they were in pain and feared for their safety.

Some horses who display repeated conflict behaviours are retired from racing and deemed “*dangerous*”, which leaves them at risk of not being afforded a safe retirement home.

Others continue to be forced against their will, which can also cost them their lives, like the case story below.

YEMEAN

BLACKALL, QLD · 18 OCTOBER 2025



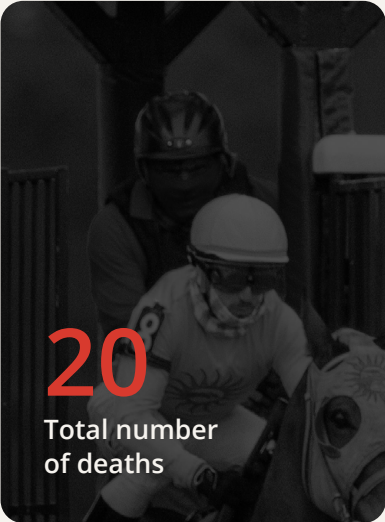
CASE STORY

Yemean was five months old when she was sold to become a racehorse. She was two years old when she started racing. By the age of five, she could no longer cope with the demands. On 18/10/2025 she attempted to break through the outside rail on the way to the start barriers. Her jockey was dislodged, and she galloped frantically down the track, desperate to escape. She then tried to jump the rail again and fell. Yemean fractured her front leg, and she was subsequently killed.

DEATHWATCH SUMMARY FOR CPR NEW ZEALAND

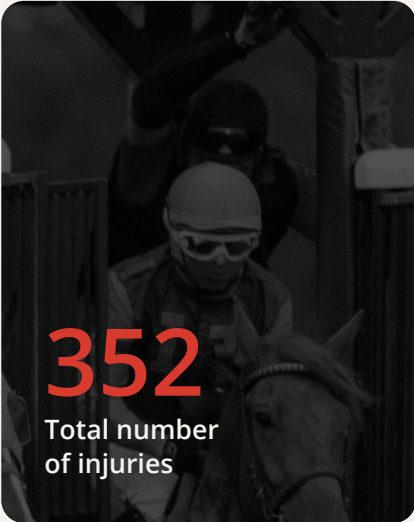
In the 2025/26 racing season in New Zealand, at least 20 racehorses were killed on the racetracks.

Although the racing industry in New Zealand is significantly smaller than its Australian counterpart, the annual death toll of racehorses is equally as significant. 306 Thoroughbred race meetings were held in New Zealand in the past season, meaning that statistically, **one horse was killed at every 15th meeting.**

A jockey wearing a helmet and goggles is in a starting box, preparing for a race.

20

Total number
of deaths

A jockey wearing a helmet and goggles is in a starting box, preparing for a race.

352

Total number
of injuries

A jockey wearing a helmet and goggles is in a starting box, preparing for a race.

313

Total number
of fractious horses

A horse is being whipped by a person, likely a trainer or jockey.

522

Total number
of whipping
infringements

A horse is being exercised on a track, possibly by a jockey or trainer.

31

Total number of horses
suffering exercise-induced
bleeding from the lungs

A horse is being exercised on a track, possibly by a jockey or trainer.

5.7 YRS OLD

The average age of
racehorses at the time
of their death

WESTCOAST

TE RAPA, NZ · 13 JUNE 2025

CASE STORY

In New Zealand, as in Australia, racehorses are prohibited from being raced beyond the year they turn 12. As such, a jumps race at Te Rapa racetrack on June 13, 2025, was supposed to be **11-year-old Westcoast's** last race before retirement.

Devastatingly, Westcoast never got to experience a life beyond racing. He fell upon landing after an obstacle, and fractured his left shoulder. Westcoast did not get back up after the fall. He just laid on his side, gasping for breath, before the racetrack vet ended his suffering.

Westcoast was often described as New Zealand's best steeplechaser. He was considered a household name among many Kiwis - a well-known champion. Still, that wasn't enough to spare him from being raced to death.



IN MEMORIAM

Every name represents a horse.

Easy Come
Reateros
Craiglea Monnie
Tyreek
Bengello Boy
Jobeth's Prayer
Prince
Alhambra Palace
Winters Kiss
Sounds Unusual (NZ)
Acres midnight
Jolie Argent
Nevalooka
Thunder Mania
Raudkivi (NZ)
Bourbon County
Unnamed 2yo
Great Gust
Pompeii Empire
Fire King
Nuestra
Marcella Dora
Blaze The Way
Grizzly Bear
Critical Intent
Umbilica
Justabittapress
Pride Of Pariah
Nepela
Yemean
Best Side
Fast Freeze
Tough Impact
Aspire to Win
Shezavixen
Sacred Field
Princely Edition
Flying Animo
Rons Finest Choice
Diosa Afrodita

Jackpot Star
Bernen Win
Xtrascent
Equal Power
Prussian Peter
Smart Image
Whatta Whitt
Step to success
Darra Linen
Be Brave
Diamond Sunrise
Tapa Capall
Indian Doll
Mavniczs
Soar Above
Ichiban Koji
Absolute deel
Cleobella
Paralia
Sierra Dee Jay
Tycoon Artie
On The Full
Indreamsyouremine
Delta Moon
Aerospace
Skiing
Global
Angel of Avalon
Typhoon Tony
Hard Bob
Medical Autocrat
Bobby is King
Awesome Tess
Thargomindah
Womanizer
Sign From Above
Softly Black
Queen of a hand
Yamumza
Warrior Chief

Hollywood High
Space Equity
Mahpiya Luta
Bad Detective
Freiburg
Sashing
Prophets Choice
Chorlton Lane
Our Emmbar
Weekend Lover
The Lucky Alien
Hawkwood
Parppy N Me
Destiny's Rose
Queen of Chaos
Moriya
Deep Vegas
Bastyan
Big Ess
Dufresne
Karburan
Fathers Day
And Then What
So Foxy
Earlington
Procyon Miss
Lunar Dream
Siam Emerald
Cannonball
Memorialise
Arcora
Suspicious Time
Southaven
Sirkel
City Limits
Overwatch
Reformist
Badlifedecision
Explosive Rosie
Henry's Blade

Casino Lord
More Than Bubbles
Peridot Star
Secret Elegance
Orange Ears
Miss Dashwood
American Starlet
Never fails
Torque Ti Amo
Etude
Loch Gorman
Uyuni
Starry Heights
Capre Omnia
Purveyor
Rapbidash
Teeny ted
Colombiano
Chama
Rapid Impact
Ethereum Girl
Salute Again
Dame Schwarzkopf
Angelic Rebel
Sir Atlas
Promesa
Kerman Rock
Rommel's Wolf
Little Lunch
Rothfury
Time to Turn
Thehorseman
Shon a star
Paulsin
Hes A Tiger
Montgomery Bay
Escape the Rain
Jabbawockeez
Bold Saxon
God Of Texas



We also acknowledge and pay respects to the many horses whose deaths are not reported, and 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

