



British Racing – Key Facts and Statistics on Equine Welfare

BRITISH RACING – A TRACK RECORD TO BE PROUD OF

- British Racing is among the world's best regulated animal activities.
- The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) is the Government recognised body responsible for the regulation of horseracing.
- The BHA works closely and openly with Government and the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare. The BHA ensures that the standards demanded of all licensed participants, including jockeys and trainers, far exceed those prescribed by animal welfare legislation.
- Among a population estimated to be around 1 million, racehorses in Britain are among the healthiest and best looked after 2% of horses in the country.
- British Racing is enjoyed by around six million spectators every year and is the second most popular sport in Britain behind only football.

Prime Minister David Cameron: *“British Racing is a massive success story”*

BRITISH RACING – A DUTY OF CARE

- The sport employs over 6,500 people to provide first class care and attention for the 14,000 horses in training, providing them with a level of care and a quality of life that is virtually unsurpassed by any other domesticated animal.
- The highest standards of horse welfare are demanded of all jockeys, trainers and racecourses. None of the 1,400+ fixtures held annually in Britain can take place unless key BHA equine welfare criteria have been satisfied.
- British Racing is committed to providing the best possible standards of veterinary care for its horses and has invested, via the Horserace Betting Levy Board, over £27 million since 2000 in Veterinary Research and Education.
- The sport's substantial investment in Veterinary Research and Education brings benefits for all breeds of horse in Britain.
- Racecourses employ experienced veterinary surgeons and have state-of-the-art horse ambulances available to ensure the very best treatment of any injury. In the event of an incident on a racecourse:
 - Any horse affected will receive immediate attention and treatment from the racecourse veterinary team.
 - Qualified paramedics and doctors are also on hand in the case of any incident involving a jockey.
 - If necessary, horses and riders will be transported from the course to receive further treatment at the most appropriate equine hospital or Accident & Emergency hospital.

Simon Knapp, leading racecourse vet: *“Over the years, the quality of racecourse cover, medical and veterinary, has improved dramatically. We will be at the scene within 60 seconds of the incident occurring.”*



BRITISH RACING – OPEN AND TRANSPARENT

- British Racing is committed to reducing the risk in racing for both horse and jockey. Despite the best efforts of all involved, as with participation in any sport involving speed and athleticism, there remains an inherent risk of injury.
- British Racing is open and transparent about the risks involved. Within the last 20 years, the equine fatality rate in British Racing has fallen by one-third (from 0.3% to 0.2% of runners). Annual fatality rates are published clearly on the BHA's website, britishhorseracing.com
- All injuries and fatalities that occur on the racecourse are recorded and monitored to provide a benchmark from which the industry continually strives to reduce injury rates.
- Horses are at risk of serious injury throughout their lives, regardless of the type of equestrian activity they participate in, even when turned out in a field, exercising at home or doing what they were bred to do, namely racing on the track. Stopping racing would not necessarily reduce the risk of injury to horses.
- A study by Liverpool University found that 62% of “traumatic injuries” (ranging from grazes to fractures) suffered by a sample of leisure and competition horses occurred when turned out in the field, compared to only 13% during ridden exercise.
- The British Horse Society estimates over 3,000 road accidents annually involve horses.

David Muir, RSPCA equine consultant: *“It must be remembered Britain has the best equine vets in the world, and the teams of vets on racecourses are fantastic, totally committed. I’ve found the British Horseracing Authority to be transparent in everything I request of them.”*

BRITISH RACING – LIFE AFTER RACING

- Unlike a number of other breeds where continued over-production remains a threat, the number of thoroughbred foals fell by 27.3%, from 5,920 in 2008 to 4,302 in 2013.
- British Racing's duty of care to its racehorses extends beyond the end of their racing careers. Thoroughbred racehorses registered in Britain are microchipped so it is possible to track what happens to them when they leave Racing.
- A recent review conducted by Deloitte to obtain an accurate and up to date picture of the career paths of horses leaving training in Britain found that over 90% of horses leaving British Racing in 2011 are accounted for.
- The largest proportion of horses (c.40%), were found second careers outside of racing.
- An increasing number of racehorses go on to successful second careers after retiring from the track. There are currently over 10,000 horses registered with Retraining of Racehorses (British Horseracing's official charity for rehoming and retraining racehorses) as active in other equine disciplines outside of racing, including Polo, Showing, Dressage and Eventing.
- In all, the industry invests over £600,000 each year facilitating the rehoming and retraining of racehorses. Racehorse owners are the largest contributors followed by racecourses, plus trainers, bookmakers, breeders, jockeys, auctioneers, legacies and fundraising activities and the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

Champion Jump trainer, Paul Nicholls: *“Racing only forms half of a horse’s lifetime”*