



RACING AND WAGERING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



EQUINE RACING WA





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Horse racing in WA has one of the broadest racing ecosystems in the world, with race clubs located from as far north as Wyndham to as far south as Esperance. Beyond that, thoroughbred and harness racing is a vital part of life for more than 22,000 people. It provides social and community engagement as well as opportunities to work with animals.

SIZE AND SCOPE

Thoroughbred

37 race clubs with more than **7000** members

Around **280** race meetings and more than **2100** races a year

More than **320,000** attendances at race meetings each year

Almost **2000** trainers, jockeys, apprentices and stable employees

9099 thoroughbred owners

Around **3600** thoroughbreds in training

Harness

12 clubs with more than **1300** members

Around **250** race meetings in a year, including 2200 races.

Almost **200,000** attendees at race meetings each year

More than **800** trainers, drivers, apprentices and stable employees

2142 standardbred owners

Around **1700** standardbreds in training

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

\$823.5 million annual value added to the WA economy

\$736.6 million in total direct expenditure

7122 full time equivalent employment

22,444 people are involved in horse racing across WA including employees, owners, breeders, trainers, contractors and volunteers

Racing fosters a sense of worth and belonging for more than **3000** volunteers

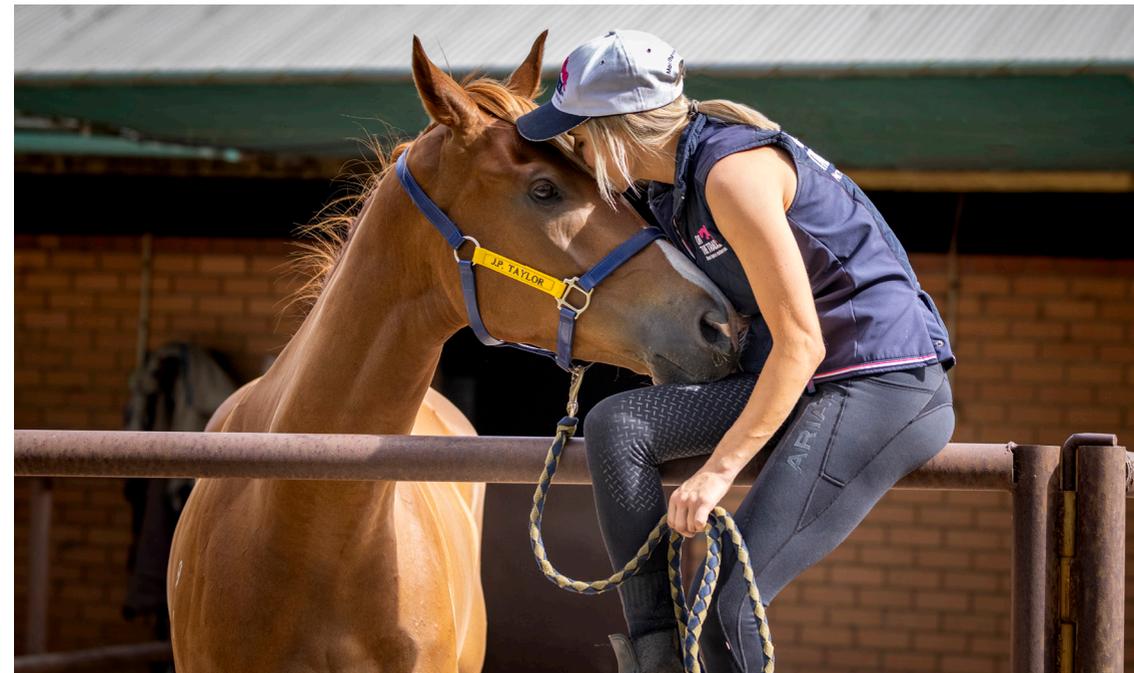
Racing provides employment for people with specialist skills which would be difficult to find elsewhere

Around **200** community groups or charities get financial support from race clubs

Around **70** community groups share race club facilities and resources

Most race meetings are held in regional WA. They are vital in offering a place and a purpose for isolated communities to come together

Source: Size and Scope of the Western Australian Racing Industry, IER Pty Ltd, 2021



GOVERNANCE

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) is responsible for regulating the WA racing sector. Strict governance and integrity standards are applied to horse racing across the state.

RULES OF RACING

The Rules of Racing are designed to protect all racing animals. They are effectively laws that regulate the actions of all people in racing. The racing sector is also subject to the same legislation that governs welfare in WA, the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. By comparison the Rules of Racing are much more prescriptive, outlining the requirements for many different areas of equine care. They are also able to be enforced strictly and rapidly, without reliance on the court system.

PENALTIES

Stewards can apply severe penalties to those who break the rules, including substantial fines and disqualifications. Animal welfare is taken very seriously when it comes to penalties. If animal welfare is seriously compromised, stewards can impose fines of up to \$100,000 or remove people from continuing to own or train racing animals through cancellations of licences or disqualifications (either permanently or for a period of time).

STEWARDS

Stewards are the police of racing in WA and have the power to strictly enforce the Rules of Racing, both on and off the track. Stewards can, at any time, come on to a property where racing animals are kept. Unannounced stable inspections are regularly carried out to check on racehorses. Stewards' powers as prescribed within the RWWA Act 2003, are more extensive than those provided to the police, and include the power to compel people to give evidence, admit entry and answer questions.

LICENSING & REGISTRATION

All people in the racing sector are licensed and undergo a thorough examination to determine if they are a fit and proper person to be licensed, this includes a police clearance check. Racehorses must also be registered and are tracked during all stages of their racing careers. Stewards have the power to refuse to grant a licence or register a person if there are any concerns.

SPECIALISED INVESTIGATIONS

Outside of the stewards, there is a specialised Racing Investigations Unit, which investigates any suspected welfare concerns or wrongdoing by people in the racing sector. People are encouraged to report any concerns they may have and are able to remain anonymous.





EQUINE WELFARE

OUR COMMITMENT

Thoroughbred and harness horses are the heart of racing and high standards of care are provided from birth to retirement. A comprehensive welfare strategy guides RWWA in fulfilling its commitment to safeguard the wellbeing of racehorses.

OUR VISION

To set the highest standard in animal welfare for the WA racing industry.

OUR MISSION

To ensure that current and best standards of care are provided to racehorses during all stages of their lives.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS?

With evidence-based decisions.
With transparent and dependable data.
With impactful and measurable advances in animal welfare.

FOCUS AREAS

GOVERNANCE: Continue to be forward thinking and leaders in setting the standards that maximise welfare during all stages of a racehorse's life.

RACING: Enhance existing practices and regulations to support the welfare and safety of all racehorses.

REHOMING: Further support the welfare and retraining of retired racehorses, through advances in rehoming practices.

INDUSTRY CULTURE AND EDUCATION: Maintain a culture whereby the welfare of the horses is at the forefront of all decisions.

RACING

A range of welfare initiatives and programs are in place to ensure the best standards of care are provided to equine athletes during their racing careers.

To ensure these high standards are upheld, racing is governed by overarching rules and regulations which are enforced by stewards.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The racing sector has Rules of Racing, which include strict rules on the care and treatment of racehorses. Stewards are the police of the racing sector who enforce these rules on and off the track.

TRACEABILITY

The location of a horse is tracked throughout their career. A dedicated Equine Traceability Compliance Welfare Officer is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the horse's location.

STABLE INSPECTIONS

Stewards regularly conduct inspections at properties where racing animals are kept. Stewards can, at any time, come on to a property where racing animals are kept. Unannounced stable inspections are regularly carried out to check on racehorses.

WELFARE POLICIES

There are a number of policies to protect the welfare of equine athletes, including:

- Testing for prohibited substances
- Hot weather policy
- Number of starts permitted
- Number of horses in a race
- Approved racing gear
- Recording of veterinary treatment

STUD BOOK REGISTRATION

All horses bred for racing are recorded with the Australian Stud Book or Harness Racing Australia. The status and whereabouts of a horse is maintained, and all horses are microchipped for easy identification.

VETERINARY CARE

A veterinarian attends all race meetings and trials and conducts examinations where required. A horse will not be allowed to race if there are concerns for their wellbeing. All two-year-old horses and horses aged over twelve years are examined before they race.

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE CONTROL

In WA, the use of prohibited substances in racing is rare, with 99.8% of swabs returning a negative result. However, there continues to be a significant investment of \$1 million annually in prohibited substance control for equine racing, with more than 7500 swabs collected each year. Swabs can be collected both at the races and at trainers' private properties. If a positive swab is detected, racing participants face severe penalties, including loss of livelihood.

RACECOURSE FACILITIES & SURFACES

Racecourses are inspected prior to every race meeting to ensure they are safe for racing. Races will not go ahead if there are concerns with the track.



LIFE OUTSIDE OF RACING

Horses are the stars of the sport and, like any athlete, they deserve a rewarding retirement. Retired racehorses are versatile and highly intelligent animals, able to impressively adapt to retraining and alternate lifestyles.

Off the Track WA is RWWA's main program to support equine athletes after they leave the care of the racing community. There are a range of initiatives to help racehorses make the transition to life as companion, pleasure or performance horses.

RESPONSIBLE REHOMING

The Rules of Racing in WA require owners and trainers to make a demonstrated effort to responsibly rehome horses. There is strict criteria for what constitutes a demonstrated effort and among them is the requirement for owners and trainers to undertake at least two of the following options:

- Advertise in a minimum of two media platforms for at least six weeks
- Apply to rehome the horse through a credible adoption agency
- Consigning the horse to a public auction
- Consigning the horse to an industry auction

OFF THE TRACK WA PASSPORT

A passport is available for all retired racehorses to help understand their lives and locations after racing. The passport is also an opportunity to provide advice and support to those who adopt a retired racehorse, including access to educational clinics and materials

OFF THE TRACK WA

The Off the Track WA Estate is a racehorse welfare facility, which helps to retrain and rehome racehorses through the Off the Track WA Retraining Program. It is also available for any emergency welfare cases should they arise and has capacity for up to 40 horses at any time

OFF THE TRACK RETRAINING PROGRAM

The Off the Track WA Retraining Program encompasses the Off the Track WA Estate and a network of retrainers with the expert knowledge to give retired racehorses the skills and experiences needed to transition from racing to second careers as pleasure or performance horses. Horses accepted into the program are assessed on arrival at the estate before being allocated to a retrainer, where they begin re-education ready for sale. The program is designed to complement already established pathways for rehoming retired racehorses, with priority given to horses which may be more challenging to rehome, such as those located in remote areas.



OFF THE TRACK WA SPONSORSHIP & EVENTS

Off the Track WA hosts a number of educational clinics across the state, including both regional and metropolitan locations, to assist retired racehorses and their new owners. Off the Track WA also provides sponsorship for events to encourage the attendance of thoroughbreds and standardbreds.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

Through the Off the Track WA program, the racing sector partners with important organisations such as HorsePower Australia (formerly known as Riding for the Disabled Australia) and the Claremont Therapeutic Centre. Off the Track WA provides support through financial sponsorship as well as gifting retrained off the track horses to become therapy horses.

OFF THE TRACK WA WEBSITE

The Off the Track WA website is a one-stop shop for all things relating to retired racehorses. The website has a free buy and sell platform to advertise retired racehorses, as well as information about upcoming events, sponsorship opportunities, educational material and more.





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