

WE ARE ANIMAL PEOPLE

EQUINE WELFARE IN WA

OUR COMMITMENT

Horses are the heart of racing and high standards of care are provided from birth to retirement and beyond. 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 community.

OUR MISSION

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



FOCUS AREAS

GOVERNANCE

Continue to be forward thinking and leaders in setting 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 racehorse is at the forefront of all decisions.



RWWA
RACING AND WAGERING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

RACING CARE

As horse people, we have great respect and admiration for their power, beauty and athleticism. Their wellbeing, however, is most important and we want to ensure high standards of care are provided to athletes during their racing careers.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

RWWA has Rules of Racing in place which include strict rules on the care and treatment of racehorses. Stewards are the police of the industry who enforce these rules on and off the track.

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.

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.



RACECOURSE FACILITIES AND SURFACES

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

WELFARE POLICIES

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

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.



LIFE OUTSIDE OF RACING

Horses, like any athlete, deserve a rewarding retirement. Retired racehorses are versatile and highly intelligent animals, able to impressively adapt to retraining and alternate lifestyles. The Rules of Racing require WA owners and trainers to follow strict criteria to responsibly rehome their retired racehorses.

OFF THE TRACK WA ESTATE

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 emergency welfare cases.

OFF THE TRACK RETRAINING PROGRAM

A network of expert retrainers give retired racehorses the skills and experiences to transition into pleasure or performance horses.

OFF THE TRACK WA CLINICS

Educational clinics are hosted across the state in metro and regional areas to assist retired racehorses and their owners transition to new careers.

OFF THE TRACK WA PASSPORT

A passport is available for all retired racehorses to help us 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.