

Thoroughbred Racehorse Welfare Policy





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1. Introduction

Racing Victoria's (RV) vision is to ensure that Victorian Thoroughbred Racehorses have a 'good life¹'.

This Thoroughbred Racehorse Welfare Policy (TRWP) provides a framework for the care and welfare of Thoroughbred Racehorses in Victoria in line with RV's obligations under animal welfare law in Victoria and including the *Racing Act 1958* and the Rules of Racing. It promotes good welfare for all Victorian Thoroughbred Racehorses and considers the **Horses**':

- mental and physical health;
- supervision;
- housing;
- exercise and training;
- transport; and
- retirement and rehoming from Victorian Participants through to end-of-life decisions.

This TRWP reflects available scientific knowledge, current practice, and community expectations and applies to Thoroughbred Racehorses that are under the care of a **Victorian Participant**.

Consultation across the Victorian Thoroughbred Industry stakeholder organisations and individuals included but not limited to:

- Australian Trainers' Association:
- Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association:
- Thoroughbred Breeders Victoria;
- Victorian Jockeys' Association;
- Metropolitan and Country racing clubs;
- RV's Equine Welfare Advisory Council;
- Horse transporters;
- 30 licensed Racehorse trainers (including metropolitan, country, hobbyists and professional)
- Foundation and pre-trainers;
- Equine dentists;
- Equine vets; and
- RSPCA Victoria



¹ defined as one with a higher proportion of rewarding and positive than negative experiences.



The TRWP contains benchmarks that describe:

- 1. Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards outlining the minimum acceptable welfare requirements for Thoroughbred Racehorses which if not constantly met, may lead to investigation and further measures provided for under the Rules of Racing and;
- 2. **Best Practice Guidelines** to promote optimal welfare conditions for Thoroughbred Racehorses.

The **standards** in this document are enforceable under the Australian Rule of Racing AR 233(a) **from 1 May 2024** (AR 233(a) – a **Person** must not breach a policy, regulation or code of practice published by Racing Australia or a PRA). These **standards** and guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other requirements for Thoroughbred Racehorses within Victoria. Where legislation (including but not limited to the <u>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act</u>, the <u>Land Transport Standards and Guidelines</u> or the <u>Domestic Animals Act</u>) provides for a higher standard than these **standards**, the higher standard will apply.

1.1. How to Use This Framework

This framework is made up of a series of care requirements that RV considers essential for **Thoroughbred Racehorse** welfare. The requirements establish a minimum **standard** for **Victorian Participants**.

A brief outline is provided under each care requirement, followed by the Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standard that **Participants** must meet.

RV has included "best practice" guidelines as benchmarks for **Victorian Participants** to work towards.



2. Dictionary

Agency ability to make decisions that influence how an individual Horse interacts with elements of the environment.

Anthelminthics means a drug used to treat infections of animals with parasitic worms and includes but is not limited to avermectins, benzimidazoles and pyrantels.

Authorised agent means a Person who has been validly authorised by his or her principal to act on behalf of the principal. This could include (but is not limited to) the trainer. syndicator, racing manager, farm manager or bloodstock agent.

Best Practice Guidelines means the recommended practices to achieve desirable Horse welfare outcomes. The guidelines contained within this document are intended to complement the standards.

Blistering means the application of a substance to cause blistering (vesiculation) and inflammation of the skin and underlying tissues.

Bloodletting means the withdrawal of blood from a Horse for any purpose, including the withdrawal, manipulation and reinfusion of homologous, heterologous, or autologous, blood products or blood cells into the circulatory system other than for;

- i. diagnostic/laboratory testing procedures or
- ii. use by a Veterinary surgeon in any procedure/s performed for lifesaving purposes,
- iii. in the use of Veterinary regenerative therapies for the treatment of musculoskeletal injury or disease as the case may be.

Body Condition Score means the scoring system used in Victoria to assess an individual Horse's body condition specifically relating to their weight². Refer to Appendix Racing Welfare Scoring Sheet.

Bonding with other animals means the biological process in which individuals of the same or different species develop a social connection.

Browsing means the ingestion of non-grass plants such as shrubs and tree leaves.

Confinement aid means an aid or equipment used on a Horse, that restricts the Thoroughbred Racehorse's movement for the purpose of protecting their safety and welfare.



² Carroll, C.L. and Huntington, P.J. (1988) Body condition scoring and weight estimation of Horses, Equine Veterinary Journal 20, 41-45.



Cross tie means tying a Horse with two ties, attached either side of their headcollar. These are commonly used within Raceday stalls.

Environmental enrichment means provision of items to a Horse's environment, either on a permanent or temporary basis, to provide a more stimulating environment. Carefully managed environmental enrichment can positively contribute to meeting a Thoroughbred Racehorse's physical and mental needs, for example by providing the opportunity for natural foraging behaviour when a Horse is stabled or providing opportunities for demonstration of 'agency';

Equine Dentist means a Person who is a registered Veterinarian or a Person who holds required Australian qualifications in Equine Dentistry and is suitability qualified and experienced in Equine Dentistry, this Person may be a member of the Equine Dental Association Australia.

Excessive strenuous exercise means the training practice where a Horse is overworked, overridden or overdriven. The workload imposed over time must not exceed the Horse's ability for its age, size, strength, and fitness. (See also "Overtraining").

Exertional heat Illness (heat stress) means a syndrome that occurs when metabolic heat production generated from muscular contraction that exceeds the rate at which it is dissipated. This results in a cascade of pathology clinically manifests by abnormal behavior, distress, and possible collapse and death.

Farrier means a Person who is suitably qualified in equine hoof care that holds relevant Australian Farriery qualifications (e.g. Certificate IV in Farriery).

Firing means the application of thermocautery to the skin over the musculoskeletal structures to cause a counter irritant effect.

Foraging means the sensory based enrichment a Thoroughbred Racehorse experiences when seeking out food.

Foundation Training means the initial training of a young Horse under saddle (breaking-in).

Good life means a life with a higher proportion of rewarding and positive than negative experiences.

Hanging means when a Horse veers away from a straight course during a race or during training.

Horse/Thoroughbred Racehorse means a Horse registered with the Australian Studbook or International Thoroughbred Studbook that is undergoing a form of ridden training or



spelling in Victoria for the purpose of Thoroughbred Racing (i.e. ridden Foundation **Training**, pre **training** and race **training**). Referred to as **Horse** throughout this document.

In-hand means the **Person** works with the **Horse** from the ground rather than from the saddle and is typically positioned beside or behind the **Horse**.

Isolation means when a **Horse** is housed within an environment separated from other **Horses** that does not permit the **Horse** to see any other animal species in sight.

Negative reinforcement means the process used to make a **Horse** become more likely to perform a behaviour in the future. An uncomfortable stimulus, normally some form of pressure, is applied to which the animal responds by giving the required behaviour. Learning occurs through the removal of pressure upon performing the desired behaviour. To train a **Horse** using **negative reinforcement** it is necessary to provide a stimulus to the animal that cannot be ignored. Once the animal performs the required behaviour the pressure (uncomfortable stimulus) is removed (instantly).

Nicking means the deliberate severing of a tendon or muscle in the tail of a **Horse** to cause elevated tail carriage.

Noxious plants means a list of harmful or damaging plants to living things (i.e. **Horses**) as per the <u>Agriculture Victoria</u> website.

Overtraining means that a Horse is overworked, overridden or overdriven over time. The workload imposed must not exceed the Horse's ability for its age, size, strength, and fitness.

Permitted Veterinarian means a registered **Veterinarian** who has been issued a permit to provide **Veterinary services** by Racing Victoria.

Person means a **Participant** under AR 2 (a) including a trainer; (b) a **Person** employed or contracted by a trainer in connection with the **training** or care of a **Horse**; (c) an owner; (d) a nominator; (e) a rider; (f) a rider's agent; or (g) any **Person** who provides a service/s connected with the keeping, **training** or racing of a **Horse**.

Person in Charge means a Victorian Participant with a Horse under their care, custody or control.

Positive reinforcement occurs when an animal receives something it desires for doing a behaviour. The behaviour is more likely to be repeated in the future because the animal is motivated to do the behaviours to receive the desired reward, such as food, praise, or rewarding physical contact.

Punishment (of an animal) means the manipulation of consequences of behaviour shown by a **Horse** such that the punished behaviour is less likely to be repeated in the future. In



the context of **training**, the trainer or handler inflicts fear, pain or discomfort upon an animal in response to them performing an undesirable behaviour.

Pre-training means a Horse is being prepared and or educated by a Person prior to the Horse entering its racing phase.

Punitive means intended as punishment.

Race Mare means a registered Thoroughbred Mare that is actively participating in Thoroughbred racing or training.

Roughage means high fibrous plant - based feedstuffs that a horse's diet relies upon. Grasses and plants that horses graze in fresh or preserved forms constitute roughage that includes but is not limited to pasture, hay, chaff or hay cubes.

Single Horse Float means a single bay **Horse** float trailer, that only has room for one **Horse** to be transported at a time.

Slow Feeders means **Horse** feeders that are specifically designed to reduce the speed at which the **Horse** eats.

Spelling means the process where a **Horse** is removed from the **training** environment and is provided time to refresh both physically and mentally. This time is usually afforded at a different location to where the **Horse** is in **training** and provides a larger paddock to enable **Spontaneous Free Movement**.

Spontaneous Free Movement means providing the **Horse** with an opportunity to exercise or play at their own leisure.

Standard means the **Horse** welfare requirements designated in this document that must be met.

Stereotypies or pathological behaviour pattern means a repeated, relatively invariant sequence of movements by a Horse that are not (or no longer) goal directed. Stereotypies can arise from frequent or chronic stress and may help the animal to cope with adverse conditions. The behaviours may persist even if the triggering factors are eliminated. Stereotypies are generally considered a sign of impaired welfare as a result of deprivation of foraging, freedom, exercise and socialisation and can indicate boredom within a Horse.

Sufficient lighting means access to natural lighting on a daily basis, and when housed indoors lighting that permits the inspection of a **Horse** for a duration similar to that of day light hours.

Suitably qualified means the ability to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour to undertake the requirements of the task the **Person** is performing or



supervising. Knowledge and skills are ordinarily obtained through formal education (e.g. degree or certifications), registration, licensing, on the job **training** or relevant industry experience.

Surgical procedure means the treatment of disease, injury and deformity by physical operation or manipulation performed by a registered **Veterinarian**.

Telemedicine Veterinary services appointments means a **Veterinary** practitioner providing **Veterinary services** to remotely located owners only when it can be demonstrated that an animal is under the practitioner's care, and the practitioner has access to and is familiar with the **Veterinary** medical record of the animal or emergency triage advice and instructions to owners.

Thoroughbred Racehorse/Horse means a Horse registered with the Australian Studbook or International Thoroughbred Studbook that is undergoing a form of ridden training or spelling in Victoria for the purpose of thoroughbred racing (i.e. ridden Foundation Training, pre training and race training). Referred to as Horse throughout this document.

Training means the process undertaken by a **Person** that teaches a **Horse** a new or different way to behave in specific situations. **Training** also includes tailoring a **Horse's** work to achieve race fitness.

Twitch means a method of restraining a Horse by applying pressure by pinching, folding, twisting or pulling down the skin, usually the upper lip, neck, or ear.

Twitch device means an instrument specifically designed to twitch a Horse.

Vehicle means a piece of equipment used for transporting something, especially on land, such as a car, truck, float.

Ventilation means **ventilation** by natural or mechanical methods that remove or exhausts fumes, vapors, or dust to prevent hazardous conditions from occurring.

Veterinarian means a **Person** who is registered with the **Veterinary** Practitioners Board (or equivalent regulatory body) in a state or territory of Australia.

Veterinary Nurse means a **Person** who is qualified to assist with the provision of **Veterinary** care for animals (e.g. Certificate IV in **Veterinary** Nursing).



Veterinary services means:

- the diagnostic confirmation of, treatment of, and provision of management advice for infectious disease, physiological dysfunction, psychological dysfunction and injury in animals;
- performing invasive or surgical procedures on animals;
- administering anaesthetics to animals;
- the exercise of prescribing rights for **Veterinary** chemicals, medicines or poisons which may be restricted by scheduling or registered label; and
- the provision of **Veterinary** certificates.

Veterinary Technician means the **Person** who is qualified to work under the supervision of a registered **Veterinarian** to assist in the provision of **Veterinary services** (e.g. Bachelor in **Veterinary** Technology).

Victorian Participant means a Person defined under AR 2 (a) a trainer; (b) a Person employed or contracted by a trainer in connection with the **training** or care of a **Horse**; (c) an owner; (d) a nominator; (e) a rider; (f) a rider's agent; or (g) any **Person** who provides a service/s connected with the keeping, **training** or racing of a **Horse**.



3. Supervision

All Horses must be supervised by suitably qualified Persons. All Persons with Horses under their care, supervision, custody or control must possess and demonstrate the required ability, knowledge and competence and have access to necessary resources (including financial) to adequately protect and promote the Horse's health, safety and welfare.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

A Person in Charge of a Horse must:

- S1. Be **suitably qualified** to provide the care required under the TRWP and recognise signs of illness, injury or a change in health of a **Horse**.
- S2. Ensure they have access to a registered **Veterinarian** to assess, diagnose and treat any illness or injury.
- S3. Ensure **Horses** confined within a stable or yard are physically inspected at least twice per day (minimum eight hours apart and no greater than 15 hours) to check for signs of good health and ensure sufficient food and water (refer to Section 5 Physical Health and Management) is available to them.
- S4. Ensure paddocked **Horses** are inspected at least once per day. The frequency of inspections *may be increased* depending on the **Horse's** physiological requirements.
- S5. Ensure **Horses** wearing equipment (for example, rugs, hoods, boots, halters and fly veils) are inspected at least once per day to ensure the equipment remains correctly fitted, and appropriate for the environment and climatic conditions.
- S6. Ensure in circumstances where they are not the owner of the Horses, that they have the name and contact details for the managing owner or their Authorised agent (e.g. the trainer) of the Horse.

Best Practice Guidelines

G1. **Persons** should consider developing an emergency plan for situations such as fire, flood, disease and unexpected absences of the **Person in Charge** for properties and circulated amongst all **Persons** living, working or who regularly visit the property. External resources for equine emergencies can be found on <u>RV's Equine Emergency</u>



Support Page.

- G2. Where Horses are kept at unoccupied premises, the contact details of the Person in Charge should be clearly displayed and visible at the premises. This could be located at the entrance of the premises or a feed room.
- G3. The use of remote monitoring systems (e.g. cameras) and alarm systems can be useful in providing additional supervision mechanisms for properties.



4. Mental Health (Behavioural Needs)

To provide sufficient space, suitable facilities, appropriate company, and varied conditions to enable expression of normal behaviour, engagement with the environment and opportunities for making choices (agency) and engaging in rewarding activities.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Horses must not be kept in isolation, except in temporary circumstances where necessary for their welfare, biosecurity or transport.
- S2. The design of facilities must enable **Horses** to have sight of other **Horses**, humans and stable activities.
- S3. Persons caring for, handling and training Horses must not deliberately conduct an act that would have a punitive impact on the Horse.
- S4. Persons must make all reasonable efforts to provide stabled Horses under their care with the daily opportunity for two or more of the following:
 - a. spontaneous free movement;
 - b. foraging and browsing;
 - c. interaction or proximity with Horses or other species (such as a stable cat);
 - d. sufficient space for rest and sleep (as per Section 6.1: S2.a); and;
 - e. physically touch another Horse (e.g. nose to nose or grooming).
- S5. When training Horses, Persons must make all reasonable efforts to use positive reinforcement training practices.
- S6. Persons grouping Horses together in a paddock must ensure each Horse has the agency to interact freely with other Horses of their choice.

Best Practice Guidelines

G1. Persons should recognise that each interaction a Horse has with a human is a form of "training" and could impact how the Horse perceives and experiences their world.

Understanding this concept will assist Persons when handling Horses safely and avoid inducing fear in the Horse.



- G2. Persons responsible for a Horse displaying a new pathological behaviour pattern (stereotypies) including weaving, crib-biting, windsucking, self-mutilation, pawing, kicking or pacing should conduct an assessment of the environment to determine the cause of the behaviour. If a concern is identified, Veterinary advice or behavioural consultant advice should be sought.
- G3. Accommodation of **Horses** in stables is unlikely to meet the full spectrum of **Horses**' behavioural and psychological needs. If stabling is used, provision of exercise, time out at pasture, a high fibre diet, social interaction (such as allowing these **Horses** to see other **Horses**) and stimulation through **environmental enrichment** should be provided to reduce stress, boredom and the risk of developing Stereotypic behaviour.
- G4.Introduction of a new **Horse** or reintroduction of a segregated **Horse** into a group should be carefully managed and supervised.
- G5. Persons must consider the long-term effects that negative experiences can have on a Horse (i.e. repeated behaviours that could lead to undesirable behavioural issues).
- G6. Persons should have an understanding of animal behavior, training methods and the importance of avoiding punishment in Horse training; and the benefits of appropriately used negative and positive reinforcement.
- G7. Persons should periodically assess the mental health (behavioural needs) of Horses in their care.



5. Physical Health and Management

5.1. Water

To ensure all Horses have access to adequate and clean drinking water.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Horses must have access to sufficient water, suitable for drinking, to supply their daily needs and maintain good health and welfare. Horses must not, to the detriment of their safety, be deliberately deprived of water for extended periods of time.
- S2. Persons with Horses under their care must ensure water containers are of a design and in a condition that does not cause injury to the Horse.
- S3. Water containers and mechanical water sources must be inspected at least daily to ensure that they are clean and functioning normally.

- G1. If dams are used as a direct water source for **Horses**, they should have safe access points to enable the **Horse** to approach the water and drink without compromising their safety and welfare.
- G2. Dams should be free of rubbish and contaminants. Dam levels and water quality need close monitoring at all times but particularly during periods of low rainfall.
- G3. Water volume requirements of **Horses** vary widely, depending on age, bodyweight, air temperature and humidity, the intensity of work, state of health and type of diet of the **Horse** and therefore volumes should be tailored accordingly.
- G4. Water containers and mechanical water sources should be inspected more frequently than once per day, in warmer climates.



5.2. Food

To ensure all **Horses** have access to sufficient food of appropriate nutritional value to maintain acceptable body condition and enable **foraging** to be a pleasurable experience.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

Persons with a Horse under their care must ensure:

- S1. They do not permit a **Horse** under their care to become less than a **Body Condition Score** (BCS) of 2 out of 5.
- S2. Each **Horse** is provided with and ingests a quantity and quality of feed sufficient to maintain a healthy **Body Condition Score** and meet their physiological and nutritional requirements.
- S3. If there is insufficient pasture for **Horses** to graze, the **Horse** is provided with suitable and sufficient supplementary feed including roughage.
- S4. Feed bins for Horses are well spaced to allow subordinate animals access to feed.
- S5. Horses that are at risk of falling below a Body Condition Score of 2 out of 5 and are paddocked within a herd are segregated or separated from the herd to ensure they are receiving and ingesting sufficient feed to meet their nutritional needs.
- S6. In circumstances where a **Horse** is failing to thrive, the quantity, quality and availability of feed, and the health of the **Horse** (including for example, the state of its teeth, the extent of parasitism and the **Horse's** age) are evaluated by a registered **Veterinarian**.
- S7. They do not deliberately deprive a **Horse** of access to food for more than 24 hours (unless under a registered **Veterinarian's** direction).
- S8. **Horses** are provided with at least 1% of their body weight in roughage daily. If fed processed feed or grains, these must be offered in addition to the appropriate amount of roughage.



- G1. Persons inexperienced in Horse care should consult a registered Veterinary practitioner or equine nutritionist about selection of suitable foodstuffs for Horses used for a particular purpose and during different seasons.
- G2. Roughage (fibrous feed such as pasture, hay and chaff) forms the majority of the Horse's diet, Persons should provide sufficient bulk and fibre to enable the digestive system to function properly. If there is not sufficient pasture for Horses to graze, they should be fed a suitable and sufficient supplementary feed at least twice a day. Failing to provide a Horse with sufficient access to roughage can increase the risk of stomach ulcers developing and may be associated with the occurrence of other behavioural anomalies. Roughage provided in confined environments, such as stables, should be provided in slow feeders to extend the amount of time spent consuming the forage and to enable the Horse to fulfil the drive of their natural behaviours (grazing).
- G3. Horses should be fed according to body condition and workload. Obesity is detrimental to the health of a Horse and can induce laminitis or founder. Animals at risk of being overweight should be carefully managed to ensure that the calorific value of their feed intake does not exceed that of the energy used. In order for this to be achieved, in addition to providing sufficient quantity of feed in order to keep them occupied often necessitates the provision of low quality (low energy) forage.
- G4.Persons should endeavour to protect Horses from access to food harmful to their health, such as mouldy hay, lawn mower clippings and poisonous plants. In the event a Person is under the belief that a Horse has eaten food that may be harmful to their health, they should consult with their Veterinarian.
- G5. Changes to the **Horse's** diet should be made gradually to reduce the risk of digestive conditions such as colic.
- G6. A Horse's diet should be rationed correctly to provide components essential for maintenance, growth and health according to the life stage and/or performance expectations of the Horse.
- G7. Where used, hard feed should be provided in no spill containers, without handles to reduce the risk of injury.
- G8. Good quality pastures, containing suitable grasses and legumes, are likely to provide the food requirements for most **Horses**, except those with increased workloads, or



with compromised teeth.

G9. Horses kept in smaller areas or on unimproved or minimal pastures are likely to require supplementary feed for some part of the year, depending on requirements for their growth, stage of life and workload.



5.3. Health and Veterinary Care

To ensure all **Horses** receive the appropriate health and **Veterinary** care to protect and promote their welfare and to ensure illness and injury are prevented or minimised, enabling optimal health and functioning.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Persons with Horses under their care must:
 - a. Ensure that **Veterinary services** are sought and provided to a **Horse** as immediately practicable, if showing signs of:
 - i. acute abdominal pain or colic;
 - ii. serious injuries (wounds, severe hemorrhage, severe or unexplained lameness);
 - iii. being unable to or struggling to rise/stand;
 - iv. laminitis with increased pulse to the affected hooves or reluctance to stand on the affected hooves;
 - v. neurological symptoms (e.g. head pressing, lack of balance, instability of the gait.)
 - vi. acute respiratory illness;
 - vii. lack of response to treatment of an illness within 12 hours;
 - viii. inactivity or unresponsiveness to stimuli;
 - ix. persistent elevated or declined rectal temperature (e.g. above 38.5 $^{\circ}$ C or below 35.6 $^{\circ}$ C) for more than 12 hours;
 - x. reduced ability or unwillingness to eat within 12 hours of dental treatment;
 - xi. rapid unexplained weight loss; or
 - xii. abnormalities of the eye (e.g. cloudiness, tearing, holding eye closed).
 - b. Ensure that **Veterinary services** are sought and provided to a **Horse** as soon as possible if showing signs of:
 - i. lameness that remains unresolved two days after appropriate treatment;
 - ii. respiratory disease (e.g. coughing, increased respiratory rate and effort, discharge from nostrils or swollen lymph nodes under the throat);
 - iii. deteriorating Body Condition Score (to a Body Condition Score of 2 out of 5 or below); or
 - iv. persistent or aggravating skin conditions.
 - c. Seek **Veterinary** advice regarding the appropriate level of exercise for **Horses** demonstrating symptoms or signs listed within Section 5.3: S1.a & b.



- d. Ensure that **Horses** that are unable to be trained due to injury or illness are taken out of **training** and provided with the necessary treatment and, or rest.
- e. Seek and follow **Veterinary** advice prior to the administration of any injectables or prescription medication, to ensure it is in the best interest of the **Horse's** welfare.
- f. Ensure they follow advice from Veterinarians.
- g. Ensure they have implemented an appropriate targeted parasite control program using parasiticides registered for use in **Horses** to control internal parasites. External parasites should also be controlled as required using products registered for use in **Horses**.
- h. Ensure the Horse's <u>Body Condition Score</u> is between 2 to 4 out of 5 and seek immediate **Veterinary** advice should the **Body Condition Score** fall outside this range.
- i. Ensure **Horses** under their care are routinely vaccinated against Tetanus and seek **Veterinary** advice about vaccination against other diseases.
- S2. Medications and substances such as vaccines, drenches, food additives and external treatments such as liniments, lotions and insecticides, must be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturers or **Veterinarian's** instructions and in accordance with the Rules of Racing.
- S3. Medications must be administered in a hygienic manner.
- S4. Horses displaying signs within Section 5.3: S1.a must not be offered for sale (private sale, online and physical auction) until the signs have resolved.
- S5. Where a **Person** has advertised a **Horse** for sale, the seller must, upon request from a purchaser, disclose whether the **Horse** has a known injury, that if immediately entered into **training** would have a detrimental effect on the **Horse's** health and welfare.
- S6. All treatment provided must be in the best interest of the **Horse**, in accordance with the Rules of Racing and not to mask the effects or signs of injury that allow **training** or racing to continue to the detriment of the **Horse's** health and welfare.

Best Practice Guidelines

G1. A Horse, new to a property should be quarantined away from the resident group for 10-14 days with twice daily monitoring of rectal temperature and other signs of ill



health to reduce the risk of introducing disease.

- G2. Good hygiene and cleanliness in and around stables, yards and paddocks, including disposal of effluent and litter, will reduce the risk of parasitism and disease.
- G3. Paddocks used for grazing **Horses** should be managed in such a way that contamination by parasites or other agents is minimised. Good management practices include **spelling** paddocks or grazing with other species such as sheep and cattle.
- G4. The application of fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and farm manure should be managed to prevent any health risks to grazing **Horses**.
- G5. It is recommended that nasogastric tubing is only performed by a registered **Veterinarian**, qualified **Veterinary Nurse** or **Veterinary Technician**.
- G6.It is recommended intravenous injections are only administered by a registered **Veterinarian**, qualified **Veterinary Nurse** or **Veterinary Technician**.
- G7. It is recommended each **Horse** receives an annual general health check by a registered **Veterinarian** inclusive of an appropriate vaccination program implemented, based on **Veterinary** advice for the general health welfare of the **Horse** and for equine infectious diseases including but not limited to strangles, Equine Herpes Virus and Hendra.
- G8. It is recommended that prior to the purchase of a **Horse** (through private or public sale) that the buyer arranges for an independent **Veterinary** assessment to be conducted on the **Horse**, to ensure the **Horse** is fit for the buyer's intended purpose.



5.4. Foot Care

To ensure all **Horses** have regular appropriate foot care to maintain normal pain-free function in all feet and body posture.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Persons with Horses under their care must ensure:
 - a. Horses' feet are appropriately maintained to permit normal mobility and to maintain appropriate hoof shape and function; and
 - b. Horses' feet are adequately protected and/or prepared for the surface on which the Horse is exercised or housed.
- S2. A **Person** must only shoe a **Horse** or trim a **Horse's** foot if they are **suitably qualified** to do so, for example, a **Farrier** (exception may be provided by Stewards).
- S3. Shod **Horses** must be inspected by a **suitably qualified Person** at least every six weeks for replacement or re-fitting of shoes.

- G1. Ensure shoeing or trimming a **Horse's** feet does not cause any abnormality of gait or posture.
- G2. Feet of **Horses** in **training** should be inspected each day for signs of injury, loose shoes or impacted stones or other bodies.
- G3. Loose shoes and those with risen clenches (shoe nails) should be promptly removed, to prevent possible foot and/or limb injury. Clenches remaining in the hoof should be promptly removed.
- G4.Loose or noticeably worn shoes should be replaced as soon as possible and always prior to work on roads, stony or hard surfaces.
- G5. Where a **Horse's** foot shows a growth pattern, injury or any other defect, inspections and corrective management should be undertaken more frequently and at an appropriate interval to ensure the condition is not worsening and that any corrective treatment is effective.



5.5. Dental Care

To ensure **Horses** have the appropriate regular dental care enabling normal mastication and prevent the development of any dental pathology, pain, infection which may result in weight loss or may otherwise compromise the **Horse's** welfare.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

Persons with a **Horse** under their care must ensure:

- S1. Horses are assessed and treated by an Equine Dentist at a minimum once per year or as deemed necessary by a registered Veterinarian or Equine Dentist.
- S2. They do not provide or arrange any dental treatment that causes modification, damage or injury which results in a negative impact on the **Horse's** welfare.
- S3. Dental checks and treatment for young, supplementary fed and aged **Horses** are more frequent and in accordance with the advice from an **Equine Dentist**; and
- S4. Sedation and analgesia (pain relief) for any dental inspection and treatment is only administered or prescribed by a registered **Veterinarian**.

- G1. Dental examinations should be undertaken when **Horses** enter **training** to ensure that any dental pathology is detected and treated promptly. This ensures the **Horse** has no underlying abnormality which will impact on its comfort with a bit and prevent unwanted behaviours occurring while being ridden (for example head tossing, **hanging** or abnormal head carriage).
- G2. Negative welfare impacts to a **Horse** caused by dental treatment may include the **Horse** being unable to eat within a reasonable time of the treatment (within 12 hours of treatment) or creating an abnormal bite that affects the **Horse's** ability to effectively chew its food.
- G3. It is not recommended to shear off or file off 'wolf' teeth.



5.6. Treatment and Surgical Procedures

To ensure all **Horses** are not subjected to illegal or unnecessary invasive procedures and that they are provided with proper care and advice from a registered **Veterinary** practitioner for all necessary invasive procedures to promote comfort of good health and functional capacity.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Standards

Persons with a Horse under their care must ensure:

- S1. Only registered Veterinarians perform surgical procedures on a Horse.
- S2. They do not perform or cause to be performed limb neurectomy or any artificial form of permanent limb desensitisation such as **nicking**, **blistering**, **bloodletting** or **firing** on a **Horse**.
- S3. Only surgical procedures deemed beneficial for the Horse by the registered Veterinarian, having together considered the welfare and safety of the Horse and the context for which the Horse will be used (e.g. racing) are conducted.
- S4. Any surgical procedure conducted on a Horse under their care that is likely to cause unreasonable pain must only be performed under appropriate analgesia, sedation, or anesthesia: and
- S5. Treatment practices that may cause unreasonable pain must not be carried out on **Horses** if painless or alternative methods of treatment can be adopted.

- G1. Adequate facilities to provide a safe environment and suitable equipment, should be available when **Horses** are subjected to any procedure or treatment. Management and treatment procedures should be performed by **suitably qualified Persons**.
- G2. Effective management and treatment of **Horses** involves using various forms of restraint. The level of restraint will vary with the temperament, disposition and previous learning experience of the particular **Horse**, the nature of the management procedure, and the knowledge and skill of the handler (see G5).





- G3. Horses that have undergone a surgical procedure, and/or sedation, should be closely monitored throughout the recovery period.
- G4. Horses that have undergone any surgical procedure should be allowed sufficient time for aftercare, healing and any necessary rehabilitation before resuming any exercise. What is regarded as sufficient time will depend on the nature of each surgical procedure. Advice from a registered Veterinary practitioner must be followed.
- G5. Restraint methods used on **Horses** should always be the minimum necessary to carry out routine management procedures. Prolonged or over-zealous use of restraints, such as nose-**twitch**es, may cause severe reaction in many **Horses**.
- G6. Persons should ensure they do not arrange for a surgical procedure to be conducted on a Horse that is likely to compromise the welfare or safety of the Horse or rider for racing (e.g. attempted surgical intervention on a Horse diagnosed as a wobbler).



5.7. Identification

To ensure all **Horses** are identified according to the Rules of Racing and government legislation, enabling their records and health to be monitored to govern their safety and welfare.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

Persons must ensure that all Horses under their care:

- S1. Have been implanted with a microchip by a registered **Veterinarian** and in accordance with the requirements of Racing Australia and the Australian Stud Book Rules.
- S2. Are branded only by the method of "freeze branding" and in accordance with the Australian Studbook Rules.

- G1. All Horses should be microchipped prior to entering training.
- G2. Horses should be permanently identified (freeze branded) as early as management practices will allow, by Persons experienced and proficient in performing the procedure.



5.8. Rugging

To ensure appropriate and safe rug use in **Horses** in line with its intended purpose for physical and environmental protection and avoiding discomfort.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

Persons with a Horse under their care must ensure:

- S1. Any rug that is used on a **Horse** is fitted correctly.
- S2. The **Horse** is inspected daily for any injury, irritation or entanglement caused by the rug.
- S3. The **Horse** is inspected weekly by removing the rug to assess the **Horse's** body condition, skin health and for any irritation or injury hidden or possibly caused by the rug. Any rug that may have caused injury or disease is not to be placed back on a **Horse**.
- S4. Rugs used on a **Horse** are regularly maintained, clean and fit for purpose, particularly in extremes of hot, cold or wet weather.
- S5. Rugs used on Horses that are not stabled in wet weather, are waterproof.
- S6. Horses that are full body clipped during winter are adequately rugged, except when exercising.

Best Practice Guidelines

G1. Horses should be habituated with wearing rugs before being released into a paddock while wearing a rug.





5.9. Breeding of Thoroughbred Mare in Training (Race Mare)

To ensure that Victorian Thoroughbred Race Mares in training and racing are managed appropriately if they leave the direct care of a Participant for the purpose of a stallion covering.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

A Person facilitating the stallion covering of a thoroughbred Race Mare must ensure:

- S1. The Race Mare is cared for in accordance with the TRWP and relevant Rules of Racing; and
- S2. The management of the covering process reduces the risk of the Race Mare experiencing distress or injury.

- G1. Thoroughbred mare owners arranging for the breeding of a Race Mare, should consider factors like the dam and sires' conformation, pedigree, type and race performances to make the best effort that they are breeding with purpose.
- G2. Persons responsible for reproductively entire Horses should ensure that Race Mares and stallions are housed separately except for specific breeding purposes.
- G3. Known or potentially inherited conditions should be taken into account when selecting **Horses** for breeding.



6. Housing

6.1. Stable, Shelter and Yard structures

To ensure the housing and environment of **Horses** is safe and prevents exposure to extreme environmental factors and promotes thermal, physical, auditory, visual and atmospheric comforts allowing normal behaviours.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

A Person with a Horse under their care must:

- S1. Take reasonable action to ensure that an area in which the Horse is kept:
 - a. Is appropriately designed, maintained, and cleaned to ensure the structure does not pose a risk to the **Horse's** health and safety;
 - b. Provides access to shade, shelter, or other reasonable protection from all weather conditions:
 - c. Has sufficient drainage;
 - d. Allows access to a surface suitable for the Horse to rest comfortably;
 - e. Ensures the security of the Horse by preventing the Horse escaping; and
 - f. Is not overcrowded and allows adequate space for each **Horse** to separate themselves from a group.
- S2. Ensure **Horses** housed within a stable or yard environment:
 - a. Have sufficient space to enable the **Horse** to stand freely within a normal position with their head fully raised, walk forward, and turn, lie down, roll, stretch and groom themselves without restriction;
 - b. Have sufficient lighting;
 - c. Have sufficient air flow and **ventilation** to ensure dust levels are kept to a minimum and to ensure **Horse** comfort and safety;
 - d. Have appropriate clean and hygienic dust-free bedding provided within the stable/yard that provides warmth, insulation, and protection from abrasions; and
 - e. Have dirty bedding and stale or contaminated feed and water removed from the stable each day.
- S3. Ensure paddocks and yards are kept free of **noxious plants**, rubbish and debris that may increase the risk of injury to a **Horse**.



- G1. The floors of yards, sheds and stalls should have surfaces that ensures adequate drainage and provide safe footing for **Horses**.
- G2. Adequate firefighting equipment should be available and easy to access. **Persons** in charge of stabled **Horses** should be trained and practiced in use of fire-fighting equipment. There should be ready access to **Horses** to enable them to be released quickly in case of emergencies.
- G3. Healthy **Horses** can tolerate a wide variation of heat and cold if they are acclimatised and have adequate feed and water. However, steps should be taken to minimise the effects of climatic extremes and other factors producing either cold or heat stress. Young foals, very old, or sick/injured **Horses** are most susceptible.
- G4.Landscape features, such as rows of trees, hedges, and gullies, can provide some natural shelter for **Horses**.
- G5. The risk of injury increases where **Horses** are overcrowded and competition for food, water and space may lead to aggressive behaviour. **Persons** should ensure all **Horses** under their care are provided with sufficient space and separation to reduce the risk of injury, undue competition for food and water, and aggressive behaviour.
- G6. Where possible, the duration and intensity of artificial lighting, where used, should be close to the natural occurring conditions and diurnal rhythm that provides the **Horse** with an opportunity for darkness.
- G7. Stables should be robust and durable in design to ensure they can withstand damage if kicked or leant on by a **Horse**.
- G8. Efforts should be made to ensure the environment for the **Horse** is effectively controlled against infestations of ticks, flies, lice, mosquitos, rabbits and rodents and any other pests.
- G9. Appropriate facilities to segregate Horses for quarantine purposes should be available to prevent the spread of disease.



6.2. Fencing and Gates

To ensure the **Horse's** environment is of a **standard** that promotes safe and suitable confinement methods for them and their human managers.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

A Person with a Horse under their care must ensure:

- S1. Fencing and gates used to enclose a **Horse** are designed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury to **Horses** whilst preventing escape.
- S2. Permanent and temporary fences are visible to **Horses** and are of an appropriate structure and properly maintained to adequately confine **Horses**; and
- S3. Horses are not housed within a yard or paddock that is primarily fenced using barbed wire.

- G1. Electric fencing, properly fitted and maintained, contributes to a safe and effective barrier to **Horses**, when used with conventional post-and-wire and post-and rail fences.
- G2. Gates and doorways to housing and yards should be of adequate width to allow a **Horse** to pass safely and avoid hitting themselves on the supporting structure. Gateways should be fastened securely, to prevent escape and possible injury to **Horses**.
- G3. The strength and height of the fencing is particularly important for stallion enclosures. Fencing should prevent escape and minimise risk to the stallion, other **Horses**, handlers and the general public.
- G4. Fencing design will vary according to the size, sex and disposition of the Horses, stocking density and paddock size.
- G5. Injuries to Horses and handlers are more likely to occur where Horses are overcrowded and facilities are inadequate.



6.3. Agistment

To ensure the **standards** of care for **Horses** are appropriately maintained whilst they are **Spelling** on agistment.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. A **Person** who is arranging agistment for a **Horse** must ensure the manager of the agistment property has ready access to the **Horse's** managing owner's or their **Authorised agent**'s (e.g. trainer) full name, street address and contact telephone number.
- S2. A **Person** that is arranging agistment for a **Horse**, must ensure they source a provider that will care for the **Horse** in accordance with the TRWP.

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- S3. An express agreement (oral or written) as to the level of care, services and **Veterinary** resources available to the **Horse** must be made between and clearly understood by both the **Person** arranging agistment and agistment provider.
- S4. Any **Person** operating and/or managing an agistment property that is used to care for **Horses** throughout their racing and **Spelling** preparations must ensure they are complying with all requirements set out within the TRWP.
- S5. All properties used as agistment for Horses must have a current Property Identification Code (PIC) registered with Agriculture Victoria.



7. Exercise

7.1. Exercise and fitness preparation

To ensure that **Horses** receive appropriate and sufficient exercise to promote and protect their health and welfare, functional capability, vitality, and fitness, and including minimising the risk of acute and chronic injuries, and otherwise in the maintenance of the **Horse's** good health.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Properties (including those used in **Foundation Training** and **pre-training**) must be adequately maintained to ensure a safe environment for rider and **Horse**.
- S2. **Persons** with a **Horse** under their care must seek **Veterinary** advice regarding the appropriate level of exercise, if any, for a **Horse** showing signs of lameness or illness.
- S3. Persons with a Horse under their care must ensure the exercise they are engaging the Horse in is appropriate to the Horse's age, ability, level of education, condition, and fitness.
- S4. Horses housed in a stable or yard must be exercised by one or a combination of (but not limited to) hand walking, using mechanical exercising machines, riding, lunging, swimming or release into a large yard or paddock for at least one hour a day (cumulative). Noting, in some circumstances, due to injury or convalescence for example, Horses may need to be stabled for extended periods acting on the advice of a registered Veterinarian.
- S5. Horses that are stabled or housed in yards long-term must be spelled at least once a year in a paddock (stabling at night is permitted), for at least four weeks. The more intense the racing campaign the longer the spell period should be.
- S6. Horses exercised on mechanical exercise machines must be appropriately supervised by a competent handler at all times.
- S7. Horses must be ridden as part of their training regime and not exercised solely using mechanical training machines.



- S8. As part of their racing preparation, **Horses** must be provided the opportunity to gallop on a similar surface on which they will compete (e.g. grass or synthetic) prior to competing in an official race or trial.
 - a. In the event a **Person** does not have access to a grass or synthetic track to exercise the **Horse** on through their racing preparation, arrangements must be made to obtain access an appropriately similar track for galloping purposes.
- S9. **Persons** must make reasonable attempts to ensure their **training** practices do not result in **excessive strenuous exercise**, **overtraining** or an increase in the risk of musculoskeletal injuries.

- G1. In seeking to avoid a **Horse** being overtrained or excessively exercised, the **Person in**Charge should take particular account of the maturity of the **Horse**.
- G2. Rider size and weight should be appropriate for the size (namely weight) and condition of the **Horse**.
- G3. When introducing a **Horse** that is new, or one that has been spelled for more than two weeks prior, to exercise, their workload should be increased gradually to prevent injury and stress.
- G4. The exercise of a **Horse** should always include an appropriate warm-up and cool down.
- G5. Following a spell period, a gradual return to exercise is recommended based on the principle that whatever the length of the spell, the length of time to return to a maximal workload and trialing stage is at least double the spell duration up to 10 weeks of training (example 1 following a two-week spell, the Horse could return to trialing stage after four weeks of training; example 2 following a six-week spell, the Horse may return to trialing stage after 10 weeks of training).
- G6. Once fit, **Horses** should undergo the minimum volume of fast work required to maintain cardiovascular fitness two to three times per week.
- G7. Persons should record the daily exercise/training undertaken (digital or written) for each Horse under their care. This information could include (but not limited to) the



speed, distance, surface and method in which the **Horse** was exercised (e.g. ridden trackwork, water walker, treadmill) and keep possession of these records for a minimum of two years.

G8. Persons should record within the relevant stable return (deceased, retired or spelling) serious or fatal injuries (occurring during training or racing) that result in a Horse's racing preparation being ceased.



7.2. Training and Equipment

Ensure **Persons** educating **Horses** only use safe and well-maintained tack and equipment, and they have a thorough understanding of **Horse's** behavioural responses to external stimuli, including during **training**.

Horse training methods should motivate good behaviour, be clear and rely on distinguishable signals linked to required responses that are promptly reinforced and ultimately promote positive Horse-human interactions.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Training practices must never include nor be used to justify the abuse of a Horse.
- S2. Educating a **Horse** must aim to produce relaxed, co-operative and a compliant **Horse** both on the ground, under saddle and during transport. A **Horse** must only have **training** methods, gear or aids applied that are appropriate for the **Horse's** age, size, level of experience and body condition.
- S3. Persons must not engage in the education or training of a Horse unless they are competent and suitably qualified or under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified or experienced Person.
- S4. **Training** methods must be tailored to how the **Horse** learns and must at all times be humane and clear in order to allow the **Horse** to learn to respond as required to a given signal (cue, aid).
- S5. Appropriate education by **suitably qualified Persons** must be provided to **Horses** in the early education phase of their **training** in recognition to the **Horse's** immaturity and to enable them to perform with minimal anxiety and stress.
- S6. A Person must not use a training method that:
 - a. Uses repeated or excessive force, especially if used as a form of punishment.
 - b. Uses inappropriate force to control the head or neck of a Horse.
 - c. Deprives a Horse of its basic needs such as access to food, water, light or rest.
- S7. A **Person** responsible for a **Horse** must ensure all tack and equipment used on the **Horse** is properly maintained, well-fitting and correctly adjusted to ensure it does not compromise the **Horse's** welfare.



- G1. Horses benefit from training that is based on how Horses learn (i.e. by making associations between signals or aids from the handler/rider and the required response). The more consistent the trainer is in the delivery of the signals (aids) and reinforcing the required response, either by releasing pressure and/or providing a positive reward; the more effective the training is and the better it is for the Horse's welfare (and human safety).
- G2. **Veterinary** advice should be sought if a **Horse** continues to display undesirable behaviours during **training** to ascertain if such behaviour is attributable to an underlying cause, recognise and treat any underlying causes. This may extend to seeking advice from **Farriers** and **Equine Dentists**.
- G3. Persons engaged to educate a Horse should be patient, affirming and be able to instill confidence in the Horse through consistency.
- G4.Persons engaged to educate Horses should be cognisant of the Horse's sensitivities, cognitive abilities and limitations, and be able to apply clear training approaches in order to properly educate the Horses they train. Training methods should not involve flooding (overwhelming) the Horse with a series of signals.
- G5. Persons responsible for the education of Horses during their training stages could consider cross training (dressage and jump schooling) to enable a Horse a broader education to support their transition post racing in addition to improving their strength, physical and mental condition.
- G6. Training methods should consider the limitations of the Horse's cognitive ability, that is, not based on the assumption that the Horse thinks in the same way as a human.
- G7. **Training** should use reinforcement that is delivered contiguous (i.e. with the desired behaviour and response) and timely.



7.3. Confinement Aids (Restraint)

To ensure the restraint is applied for the purposes of protecting the safety and welfare of the **Horse** with the application of minimal discomfort and does not cause pain or fear.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Equipment used to restrain a **Horse** must be specifically designed for use on **Horses** and must be adequately maintained and correctly fitted to ensure the equipment is 'fit for purpose'.
- S2. Horses that are restrained must not be left unsupervised for any unreasonable length of time.
- S3. Equipment used to restrain a **Horse** (e.g. head collar and lead/**cross ties**) must be applied in a way that permits a 'quick release' function.
- S4. A **twitch device** should not be used on any part of the **Horse's** body other than the upper lip.
- S5. A **Person** must not apply a **twitch** to a **Horse** for longer than 15 minutes. In rare circumstances where a **twitch** is required for longer than 15 minutes, the **twitch** must be removed, and the upper lip massaged before the **twitch** is reapplied.
- S6. A **Person** applying a **confinement aid** to a **Horse** must be **suitably qualified** to perform the task.
- S7. A **Person** must not tie a **Horse** using an unbreakable tether. The **Horse** must always be tied to something that has the ability to give/break away when excess force is applied (such as baler twine).
- S8. Tethering, tying, cross tying and hobbling of **Horses** must not be used to restrain **Horses** indefinitely, unless under direction from a registered **Veterinarian**.



- G1. Tethering and hobbling of **Horses** is inherently dangerous and should be undertaken with extreme care and supervision by the **Person** applying the form of **confinement** aid and then only to the minimum extent necessary.
- G2. Hobble straps should be lined or greased regularly.
- G3. Hobbled Horses should not be tethered.
- G4. An 'Ear Twitch' by hand should be considered as a last option for restraint only after other available restraints have been used.
- G5. A Horse should not be tied up/tethered when a rope head collar is used.



8. Transport

To ensure that **Horses** are fit and adequately prepared for a journey within a safe transport **vehicle**, including adequately planned transport times that minimise the risk to their physical and mental welfare and enables them to be transported safely.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. A **Person** must not transport a **Horse** displaying lameness at rest or walk or if that **Horse** has any, signs of compromised health (e.g. elevated temperature or signs of respiratory disease) or a **Body Condition Score** between 0-1 out of 5 unless:
 - a. The transport is for the purpose of obtaining Veterinary diagnosis/treatment;
 or
 - b. The transport is in accordance with advice from a registered Veterinarian.
- S2. A **Person** must ensure the **vehicle** being used for the transportation of a **Horse** under their care:
 - a. Is specifically designed for equine transport.
 - b. Is of a satisfactory condition that does not pose a risk to the **Horse's** welfare during transport.
 - c. Permits satisfactory and fresh ventilation throughout the Horse area,
 - d. Is designed to permit visual inspection of the **Horse** from outside the **vehicle** or has functional cameras installed within.
 - e. Has sufficient space (bay width, length and height) for the **Horse** to maintain a comfortable standing position.
 - f. Contains either nonslip flooring or low dust absorbent bedding.
 - g. Is regularly cleaned, remains hygienic and does not pose a risk to a **Horse's** safety or welfare.
- S3. A **Person** responsible for transporting a **Horse** must not:
 - a. Transport unhandled and handled **Horses** within the same **vehicle** unless appropriate and safe segregation methods are possible.
 - b. Transport stallions with other **Horses** unless appropriate and safe segregation methods can be used.
 - c. Transport a **Horse** via road transport in excess of 12 continuous hours without a break. Following a 12-hour continuous period, a rest period off and outside the transport **vehicle** of no less than four hours must be provided and include access to food and water.
- S4. A **Person** responsible for transporting a **Horse** must:





- a. Take appropriate action to manage welfare risks associated with extremes of weather during all stages of transport.
- b. Take corrective action at the first reasonable opportunity where a **Horse** is observed to be injured, ill or suffering from heat stress.

- G1. Persons should provide a Horse with adequate training in hand to promote the calm and safe loading of a Horse onto a transport vehicle.
- G2. Persons should arrange for an area that permits the safe and calm loading and unloading of a Horse by ensuring any ramp used is secure and the **vehicle** is on level ground.
- G3. Persons should secure Horses once loaded using appropriate equipment such as head collars and leads tethered inside the vehicle.
- G4. Horses should be provided with food and water as soon as practicable pre and post transport.
- G5. The size of the bay used for a **Horse** should be selected according to the duration of travel; the airflow capacity of the **vehicle**; the size, class, condition of the **Horses**, the **Horse's** travel history; and whether feed and water is to be provided during the journey.
- G6. Horses should not be routinely sedated for travel. If sedation is necessary, it should be administered by a registered Veterinarian or qualified Veterinary staff. Sedated Horses should be stabilised, if possible, segregated and not unduly affected by the motion of the vehicle. Action should be taken immediately on identifying a recumbent Horse to separate it from other Horses to avoid injury.
- G7. Prior to undertaking a journey, an assessment of the heat stress risk for the entire length of the journey should be undertaken. The assessment should consider the following factors:
 - a. expected ambient temperatures and relative humidity;
 - b. expected wind speeds and directions, which may mean conditions could change during the journey and may influence the perceived temperature;
 - c. amount of solar radiation (e.g. overcast vs sunny day);
 - d. expected journey time;



- e. the type of **vehicle** used to transport the **Horses**, including the **vehicle**'s **ventilation**, insulation and materials;
- f. Horse factors which may increase risk, including the maturity of the Horse, increased fat coverage (higher body condition score), dehydration, nervous temperament, inability to sweat (anhidrosis), strenuous exercise before the journey; and
- g. loading factors which may increase risk, including higher loading density and reduced **ventilation** around each **Horse**.
- G8. When transporting **Horses** in circumstances where the potential exists for high heat stress risk, the **Person in Charge** should consider implementing some or all of the following strategies to mitigate the risk:
 - a. leaving in advance of the projected time of the peak heat risk;
 - b. delaying the journey until the heat stress risk has decreased;
 - c. providing access to water during the journey;
 - d. providing additional rest breaks;
 - e. increasing natural or mechanical **ventilation** to enhance air flow through the crate or **vehicle**;
 - f. providing appropriate shelter such as a tarpaulin or shade cloth.
- G9. If a **Horse** is showing signs of heat stress during a journey, the following actions should be taken:
 - a. the vehicle should be stopped;
 - b. remove the Horse from the vehicle (if possible);
 - c. spray or sponge the **Horse's** head, neck, back and rump with a steady stream of cool water (ice can be added);
 - d. give the Horse access to clean, cool water;
 - e. move the **Horse** to a shady, breezy area (if possible);
 - f. seek **Veterinary** attention if the **Horse** is showing serious or emergency signs of heat stress; and
 - g. Treatment should continue until the Horse's body temperature returns to the normal range (38 \pm 0.5°C).
- G10. All prescribed medications and treatments currently being administered to a Horse should be declared to transport drivers before transport.
- G11. It is recommended not to Transport a **Horse** using a single **Horse** float trailer due to the impact this could have on the **Horse**'s mental and physical welfare.



9. Retirement and Rehoming

Victorian Participants must ensure their **Horse** retires in the best condition possible, both physically and mentally when transitioning to a retirement or second career post racing.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. When a **Horse** has reached the end of its racing career and is identified as suitable for rehoming, every effort must be made by either the managing owner or their **Authorised** agent (e.g. Trainer) to find the Horse a suitable home.
- S2. Retiring **Horses** that are suitable for rehoming must be rehomed to a **Person** where their health requirements will be met. <u>RV's Post Racing Programs</u> must be considered if an appropriate post racing home cannot be found for the **Horse**.
- S3. A **Person** responsible for selling or rehoming a **Horse** must communicate to any future owner or their **Authorised agent** before the sale/rehoming all relevant details regarding the temperament and physical condition of the **Horse** including what specific requirements they may require to successfully manage the **Horse**.

- G1. **Persons** should ensure that **Horses** retiring from racing are physically and mentally suited to transition to a second career.
- G2. Horses that have retired due to injury should be treated and fully rehabilitated prior to rehoming, unless rehabilitation is agreed to be part of the re-homing process.
- G3. Horses should be given the opportunity to spell following their racing career, prior to entering a second career.
- G4.Retiring Horses should have their diet assessed and amended to ensure it is relevant to their post-racing life.
- G5. Horses that retire with a chronic injury or illness should be assessed by a registered **Veterinarian** to ascertain the level of care they require post racing.



- G6. Horses that retire with undesirable behavioural issues (e.g. displays aggression, bolts, bucks, rears etc.) should have their suitability to be rehomed assessed. Persons should seek advice from their Veterinarian or RV's Equine Welfare Team to discuss rehoming options and to ensure rehoming the Horse will not have a negative effect on the existing physical welfare or mental state of the Horse.
- G7. Persons rehoming or selling a Horse post racing should issue a bill of sale (receipt) and transfer the ownership papers to the new owner of the Horse and retain a copy for their own records.
- G8. Persons rehoming or selling a Horse should document the condition of the Horse physically (through photographs and videos) immediately prior to the Horse leaving their care.



10. End of Life Decisions

To ensure Horses are afforded a humane death, without pain, suffering or distress.

Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Industry Standards

- S1. Euthanasia of the Horse must be humane.
- S2. Euthanasia of the **Horse** must only be performed by a registered **Veterinarian** or a **Person** who is **suitably qualified** to perform an acceptable method of euthanasia.
- S3. Acceptable methods of euthanasia include rapid intravenous injection of overdose of barbiturates by a registered **Veterinarian** or the use of a firearm by a suitably experienced **Person** licensed to carry and use a firearm.

- G1. Persons may seek the support of RV through the <u>Onsite Humane Euthanasia Program</u> (OHEP) (eligibility criteria applies) to ensure the <u>Horse</u> can have a humane death at their property of residence.
- G2. The Horse should be handled quietly and with dignity before euthanasia.
- G3. Where possible, a Horse should not be euthanised in view of other Horses.
- G4.Persons should prepare the location on the property where the euthanasia will take place, consideration should be given to the surface, location, privacy and also the **vehicle** access points should the **Horse** be removed from the property post euthanasia.



11. Appendix

The following references are linked in this document;

- a. Rules of Racing refers to both Australian Rules (AR) and Local Rules (LR)
- b. RV's Post Racing Programs
- c. Racing Australia National Approved Horse Gear
- d. RV Licensing Policies
- e. <u>International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities Minimum Horse Welfare</u> Guidelines
- f. International Society for Equitation Science Principles of Training
- g. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
- h. Land Transport Standards and Guidelines
- i. Domestic Animal Act
- j. <u>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act (1981)</u>
- k. Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations (2017)





WELFARE SCORING SHEET

folds and lumps of fat

Score Description 0 · very sunken rump Very poor · deep cavity under tail · skin tight over bones very prominent backbone and pelvis · marked U shaped neck sunken rump Poor cavity under tail · ribs easily visible prominent backbone and croup U shaped neck - narrow and slack 2 · flat rump either side of Moderate backbone ribs just visible · narrow but firm neck backbone well covered 3 rounded rump Good · ribs just covered but easily felt · no crest, firm neck · rump well rounded Fat · gutter along back · ribs and pelvis hard to feel · slight crest very bulging rump Very fat · deep gutter along back · ribs buried marked crest



12. Resources

In preparing the TRWP, the following documents were reviewed;

- Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Horses in WA
- <u>Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds</u>
- Racing NSW Minimum Standards and Guidelines of Equine Welfare
- NZ Thoroughbred Racing Thoroughbred Welfare Assessment Guidelines
- International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities Minimum Horse Welfare Guidelines
- The 2020 Five Domains Model: Including Human-Animal Interactions in Assessment of Animal Welfare
- First Principles Modern Horse Training, Equitation Science Principles, Andrew McLean.
- Carroll, C.L. and Huntington, P.J. (1988) Body condition scoring and weight estimation of Horses, *Equine Veterinary Journal* 20, 41-45.



The RV Group

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