



RACING VICTORIA
ONSITE HUMANE EUTHANASIA PROGRAM
Guidance for Trainers and Owners



**Racing
Victoria**

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The Onsite Humane Euthanasia Program (OHEP) is a priority project for Racing Victoria's (RV) Equine Welfare Strategic Plan.

The OHEP is targeted at thoroughbreds when the decision to euthanise them for the best welfare outcome has already been made by the owner. The OHEP aims to enable owners to euthanise these horses onsite (rather than have the horse transported to a knackery or abattoir for euthanasia) in circumstances where the cost of this procedure would be prohibitive. RV will provide funding to pay for the cost of the onsite procedure and the subsequent removal and disposal of the deceased horse, subject to the conditions of the program.

The OHEP is not designed for or inclusive of Emergency Cases where immediate intervention for the welfare of the horse is necessary. These cases should be dealt with immediately by the owner and/or treating veterinarian in line with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic) and the Rules of Racing.

Criteria for Entry into the Program

To be eligible for entry into the OHEP, a horse must, at a minimum, satisfy the following criteria:

- a. be a thoroughbred horse identified via microchip and / or brand/s; **and**
- b. be domiciled in the state of Victoria on the date on which the horse is nominated for entry into the OHEP (there is no qualifying or minimum period of time that the horse must have been domiciled in the State of Victoria, but it must not have been relocated to the State of Victoria within the thirty (30) days prior to the nomination for the purpose of accessing this program). RV's Equine Welfare Department is authorised to make any and all reasonable enquiries if there are any concerns in relation to the eligibility criteria, and failure to assist RV's Equine Welfare Department in those enquiries may result in RV being unable to process the application; **and**

- c. satisfy at least one of the following:
 - i. is the subject of a veterinary certificate certifying that the horse has a chronic injury or disease with negligible prospect of recovery; **or**
 - ii. is the subject of a veterinary certificate that the horse has been assessed by a Veterinarian as a Body Condition Score of 1 or less; **or**
 - iii. is subject of a direction or advice to euthanise by an authorised inspector of RSPCA or any other similarly reputable animal welfare organisation, an officer authorised under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic), a police officer or an RV Steward or RV Veterinarian; **or**
 - iv. exhibits dangerous behaviour which makes the horse unsuitable for re-homing (as declared by the owner); **or**
 - v. re-homing has been unsuccessful following a minimum of two (2) genuine attempts. One of these attempts must be via RV's post-racing framework of initiatives (including but not limited to horse details being circulated to the RV Acknowledged Retraîner Network for at least fourteen (14) days).

Nomination and Acceptance Process

- The owner will complete a nomination form (available on request from RV) for entry of the horse into the OHEP which will then be assessed by RV's Equine Welfare Department.
- If approved, an Acceptance Notice will be issued to the owner of the nominated horse which will enable them to engage (at their discretion) a veterinarian/knackery/stock remover (from a supplied list of RV approved service providers) to use their services to euthanise and/or remove and dispose of the deceased horse.
- The owner will then notify RV of whose services they have requested, and RV will send the engaged

veterinarian/knackery/stock remover a Notice to Proceed and (depending on services engaged), a Confirmation of Euthanasia and Deceased Horse Removal form or Confirmation of Deceased Horse Removal & Disposal form via email. This has the address and details of the nominee horse.

- The euthanasia and removal date/time can then be organised between the owner and OHEP Service Provider, and euthanasia/removal and disposal can occur (which must be within 30 days of the initial Acceptance Notice provided to the owner, and to be notified on the Notice to Proceed sent to OHEP Service Providers).

On the day

- Prior to euthanasia the horse must be identified from the information on the Notice to Proceed (brands/description and microchip).
- A stock remover/knackery engaged by the owner can euthanise, and/or remove and dispose of the deceased horse, as required by the owner.
- After euthanasia and/or removal and disposal have been conducted, a Confirmation of Euthanasia and Deceased Horse Removal, or Confirmation of Deceased Horse Removal and Disposal must be fully completed by the service provider and returned to RV with their invoice (as detailed in the Operations Manual - available on request from RV) to: **equinewelfare@racingvictoria.net.au**

Contact

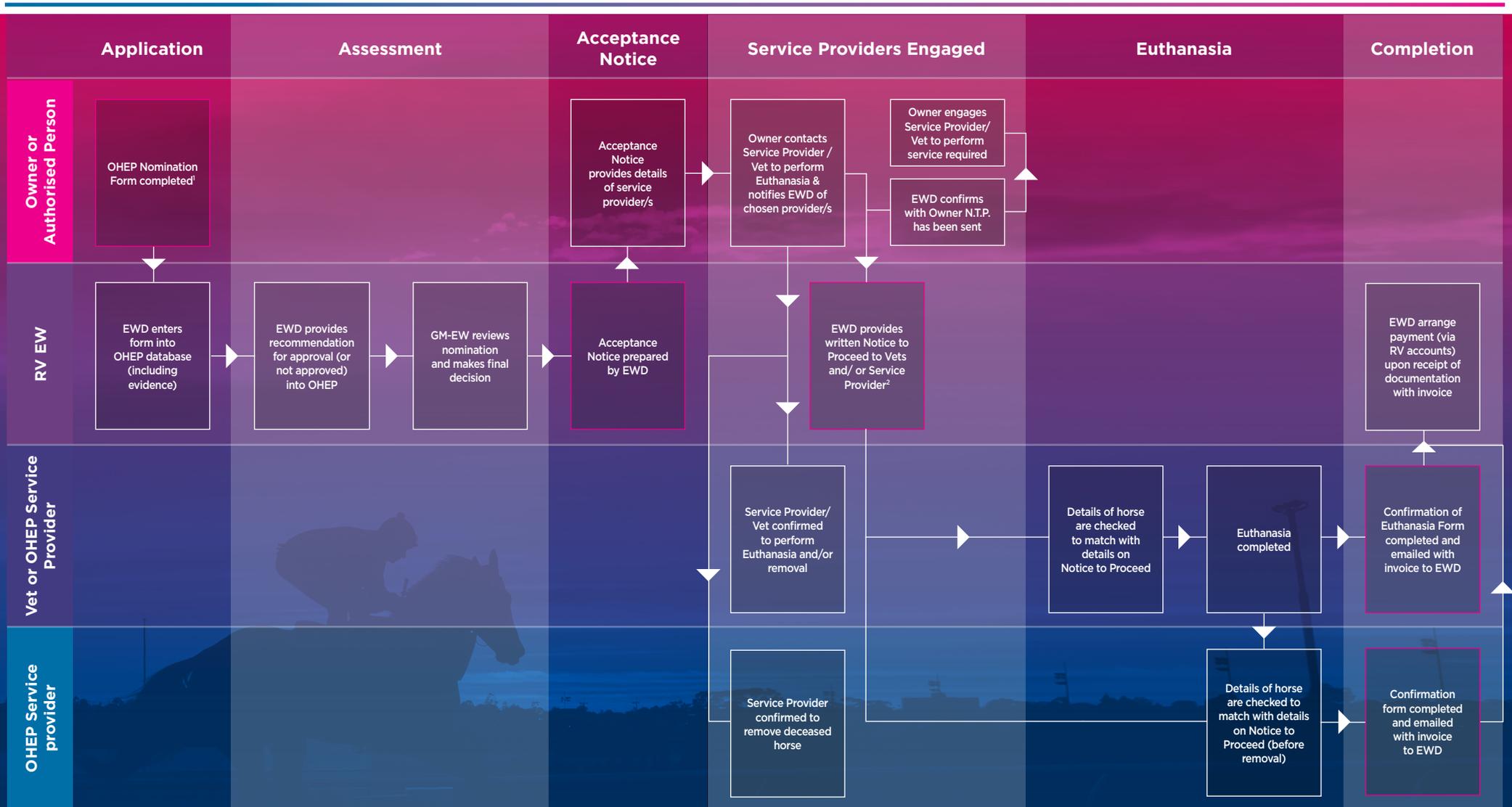
Please contact **equinewelfare@racingvictoria.net.au** with your contact details for further information, and to register your interest in being included in this program.



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OHEP: Onsite Humane Euthanasia Program **EWD:** Racing Victoria Equine Welfare Department

RV EW: Racing Victoria Equine Welfare **GM-EW:** Racing Victoria Equine Welfare General Manager **N.T.P.:** Notice to Proceed

1. Criteria for entry into the OHEP Program (See previous page for further details) 2. Prequal completion is required by all Service Providers in order to receive the Notice to Proceed.



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