



Horse Welfare – What we do

Horseracing in Britain is among the world's best regulated animal activities. The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) is the Government-recognised body responsible for the regulation of horseracing. Together with the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare, BHA is a leading signatory of the National Equine Welfare Protocol.

British Racing employs over 6,000 people to provide constant care and attention for the 14,000 registered racehorses in training. The highest standards of horse welfare are demanded of all jockeys, trainers and racecourses and none of the approximately 1,400 fixtures held annually in Britain can take place unless key BHA equine welfare criteria have been satisfied.

British Racing is committed to optimising equine health and providing the best possible standards of veterinary care for horses in training. Through the mechanism of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, racing has invested over £25m in veterinary research and education since 2000. The sport's substantial investment in Veterinary Research and Education brings benefits for all breeds of horse in Britain.

The horse welfare FAQs will cover in more detail the BHA's role to protect and promote horse welfare. A few guiding principles for racing participants are:

1. At all times during a racehorses life, including being in training and when at the racecourse the welfare of the horse should be of primary consideration by those responsible for the horses care.
2. Horses should only be presented to race in a healthy and fit condition; any horse not fulfilling these requirements must not be allowed to run.
3. The conditions of racing should not prejudice horse welfare. It is the responsibility of the racetracks and the BHA to ensure conditions at the racetrack are maintained at a high standard and that horses being presented at the racecourse only race if they are physically suited to doing so.

Any horse that races should receive first class care both before and after they have raced, and be treated with due care and attention when they retire from racing.

There are currently around 10,000 horses registered with [Retraining of Racehorses](#) (British Horseracing's official charity for rehoming and retraining racehorses) as active in other equine disciplines outside of racing, including Polo, Showing, Dressage and Eventing, as well as those horses happily engaged in hacking and exercising.