



## **LIFE AFTER RACING**

After their racing careers are over, many of the best horses will be retired to stud to breed the next generation of racehorses. However, Thoroughbreds are versatile, highly intelligent creatures that can adapt well to retraining outside of racing, and many have long and successful careers in other equestrian disciplines such as Showing, Eventing, Dressage, Polo and Show jumping, as well as those horses happily undertaking in Riding Club activities and hacking. In the majority of cases, owners and trainers take a great deal of time and trouble to find suitable new homes for racehorses leaving their care. Retaining may be done privately by a professional or other competent equine re-trainer or alternatively horses may be placed with specialist centres whose staff have extensive experience in retraining former racehorses, and placing them in suitable new homes.

### **Retraining of Racehorses Charity**

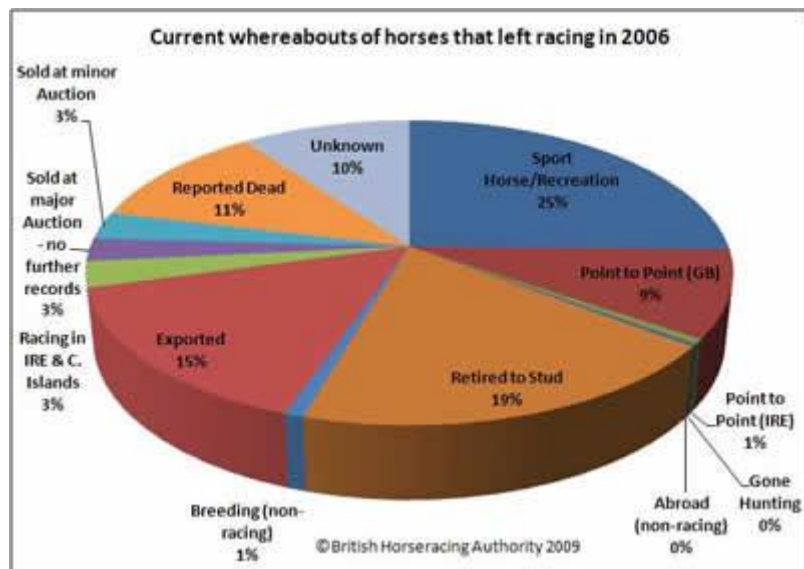
[Retraining of Racehorses](#) (RoR) is British Horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses that have retired from racing. The charity's aims are to raise funds from within the Racing Industry through licence and registration fees as well as voluntary and other donations. These funds are used to help support the charitable retraining and rehoming of former racehorses; and to raise their profile within the wider equestrian world to promote their versatility for other disciplines. RoR provides a nationwide programme of competitions specifically for former racehorses and runs workshops, clinics and other educational activities. RoR also organises parades at Racecourses to demonstrate the adaptability of the former racehorse to the general public.

RoR supports four retraining centres whose objectives are to re-school and re-home ex-racehorses. These are: [Greatwood](#) based near Marlborough in Wiltshire, [HEROS](#) near Wantage in Oxfordshire, [Moorcroft Racehorse Welfare Centre](#) near Horsham in West Sussex, and the [Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre](#), near Preston in Lancashire. Further details on the centres as well as other information about the charity can be found on the RoR website. Emergency Relief Funds will be made available if former racehorses are found neglected or in a poor state of health and are in need of immediate welfare attention. Thankfully these cases are few.

RoR has six Trustees, of which four are nominated by the principal contributors to the charity. The remaining two, including the Chairman, are appointed by the British Horseracing Authority. RoR's patrons are HRH Princess Haya of Jordan and TV broadcaster Claire Balding. There are currently over 8,000 horses registered with RoR who are active in other equine disciplines and with the right care and retraining, owning a former racehorse can be extremely rewarding.

## Study

In 2008/2009 a study was carried out by Weatherbys (A Career after Racing – An investigation into the whereabouts of racehorses which left training in 2006) which looked at where racehorses went after leaving training in Britain. This study showed that racehorses go on to perform a wide range of roles (See *figure 1* below)



**Figure 1**