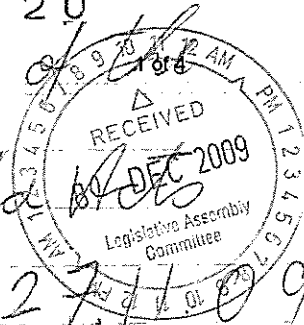


Joint Standing Committee of the Review of  
Racing and Wagering Western Australia  
Parliament House, Perth WA 6000 27/11/09



The Racing and Wagering Western Australia Acts should be made redundant and in its place a Complaints Board on Animal Welfare issues set up to investigate specifically the cruelty issues associated with Horse Racing, Pacing and Greyhound Racing, now swept under the carpet because of the vested interests of these groups, with the general public virtually being ignored should they complain to the relevant Ministers or the Horse and greyhound Industries on the plight of these unfortunate racing, gambling and breeding machines. The suffering

of greyhounds, race horses and Harness Racing is enormous, from injuries and deaths during training and racing to the large scale destruction of animals due to their lack of commercial value due to their unsuitability, to the experimentation of greyhounds at Murdoch University, including bloodletting. The 2002 WA Animal Welfare Act is not speaking up for the cruel exploitation of these animals, rather a fait accompli on their use and abuse and I would like a phasing out of these despicable animal exploitation industries that do not represent the interests of these living gambling machines, rather those of punters, jockeys, breeders, trainers, owners, investors and the TAB. As a civilised Society we have a moral obligation to end gambling on animals.



Yes! I Want to Help Stop Animal Suffering

Ms ☐ / Mrs ☐ / Mr ☐ / Dr ☐

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Option 1: I would like to Join ALV
- ☐ General membership \$35
- ☐ Concession \$25
- ☐ Family \$50

- ☐ Option 2: Each month I'd like to Contribute
- (includes membership)
- ☐ \$20 per month
- ☐ \$50 per month
- ☐ \$100 per month
- ☐ Other (minimum \$10) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque / money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or debit my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐ / Bankcard ☐

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

ALV is a not-for-profit organisation funded solely by members and donations from the public. Members receive our quarterly newsletter filled with tips for helping animals and the latest news.

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public perception

the reality

THE RACE IS ON, BUT THE HORSES NEVER WIN

Beneath its glamorous façade, horse racing is a ruthless commercial industry motivated by financial gain and prestige. The fashion, champagne gambling and roses may excite the crowd but it's no fun for the horses who are running for their lives. Scratch the surface of the horse racing industry and it's a sure bet you'll find suffering, pain and animal abuse.



Thoroughbreds are intelligent and powerful animals whose entire life is a series of unrelenting and dangerous challenges. In the end, most of them will either die on the course, in training, or be killed because they are no longer profitable. This sad and unconscionable reality is hidden behind a veil of secrecy and shame.



CALLS TO ACTION

Every one of us has the ability to make a difference by our actions and choices.

You can help these horses!

Don't support the racing industry

- Never bet on cruelty
- Do not attend any race events involving animals
- Find out more at [www.horseracingkills.org](http://www.horseracingkills.org) and spread the word.
- Join the Horseracingkills campaign
- Voice your opposition to this cruel and exploitive sport by writing letters to the newspapers and to your local member of parliament
- Sign ALV's online petition

For more information and free DVD, visit [www.horseracingkills.org](http://www.horseracingkills.org)



animal liberation victoria

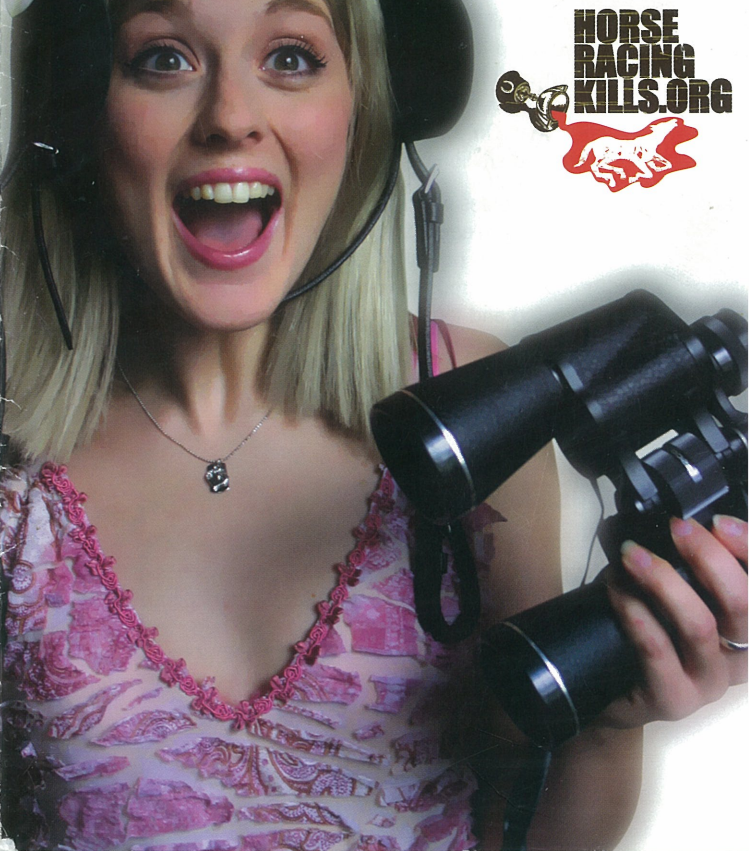
[www.alv.org.au](http://www.alv.org.au)

Help the animals and ALV today

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Email: [horseracingkills@alv.org.au](mailto:horseracingkills@alv.org.au)



DON'T BE BLINDED BY THE GLAMOUR





## SO WHAT HAPPENS TO EX-RACEHORSES?

The majority of ex-racehorses have very little commercial value. Their lives are expendable. Horses who don't shine on the track are often sent to the saleyard and most end up in a can of dog food.

Only a small number of ex-racehorses are kept for breeding, however these also join the vicious cycle that invariably ends at the knackery. Mares are kept pregnant over 90% of their lives producing a foal each year. Only a few stallions are needed, geldings (neutered stallions) serve no financial purpose.

The few horses who escape slaughter are destined for an even bleaker fate. Those purchased at saleyards and not intended for animal feed often pass through numerous owners and can end up standing neglected and forgotten in a back paddock

Hidden from public view, the life of the thoroughbred, before, during and after racing is seriously compromised.

## OVERBREEDING

The racing industry in Australia is responsible for the birth of approximately 18,000 foals each year. A widely accepted figure is that only thirty percent of thoroughbred foals born actually end up racing (Bailey et al. 1999; Bourke 1995), most of the rejects will be slaughtered or abandoned to an existence of neglect and suffering.

## RACED TOO YOUNG

Racehorse owners want a return on their 'investment' as soon as possible. The largest purses generally go to races for two and three year old horses. Young animals are forced to train and race before their bones' growth plates have matured and their skeletal system has fully developed. This causes many lower-limb ailments and injuries, including fractures, pulled ligaments, and strained tendons. Such injuries are common in horse racing.

## THE WHIP

*Section 9 of Victoria's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act defines Cruelty as: (1) A person who (a) ..overrides, overdrives, overworks, abuses, beats, worries, torments or terrifies an animal; commits an act of cruelty."*

The purpose of the jockey's whip is to make the horse run faster, or to force the animal to continue running even when exhausted. Whipping the horse over and over again inflicts physical and psychological pain and increases the likelihood of injury.

Horses can be whipped up to 40 times in a single race. If anyone was seen repeatedly and relentlessly whipping a dog for whatever reason, the abuser would be charged with cruelty.

Monty Roberts, world renown 'horse whisperer' spoke to Victoria's apprentice jockey's in August 2006 before the upcoming Spring Racing Carnival. He said it was a 'myth' that whips made horses run faster and stated: *"It is a fact that whips have been involved in 86% of racing accidents"*. Roberts pleaded for the end of the whip and to relegate it to *"a museum with a list of all the races lost with them."* Weekend Australian Aug 5-6, 2006

At the same time, outspoken English race commentator John McCrirk lashed out at champion Jockey Soumillon after he hit the world's top rated racehorse Hurricane Run 24 times at Ascot, saying, *"You cannot hit living creatures. It is unacceptable in the modern world, the whip is coming to an end"* Weekend Australian Aug5-6, 2006

## JUMPS RACING

Jumps racing is Russian Roulette for horses. They are raced in long, exhausting contests of 3000 metres or more, and have obstacles (jumps) placed in their way to create excitement for race patrons. Some horses fall at high speed, and sustain terrible injuries often causing the horse to lose its life. The jumps industry provides the worst injuries (broken necks, broken legs etc) seen on the racetrack.

Every time a horse is entered into a jumps race, the animal runs a 1 in 20 chance of falling or being injured and a 1 in 140 chance of dying on the racetrack. Fatalities also occur regularly off the track. Injured horses disappear never to be seen again. The industry argues that jumps racing prolongs the life of a racehorse who would be otherwise sent to slaughter. This however is not an argument to support jumps racing but an indictment on an industry that uses horses as disposable items.

## RACEHORSES IN TRAINING

- Most horses in training are confined to a stall for up to 22 hours per day.
- 90% of race horses suffer from ulcers as a result of stress and unnatural feeding regime. Horses control their stomach acids by continuously grazing, which they are unable to do confined to a stall.
- 90% suffer from bleeding in the lungs (Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage) due to over exertion during training and while racing.
- 'Jiggers' Electric shocks are secretly used in race training in conjunction with blinkers. This cruel learned response ensures on race day the horses associate blinkers with electric shocks and so run faster out of fear.
- Drugs: Drug abuse is a common practice either through the use of illegal pharmaceuticals or the misuse of legally accepted ones.

the issues

the suffering