



THOROUGHBRED RACING SA LIMITED

RACEHORSE WELFARE POLICY

Effective 1 November 2009



RACEHORSE WELFARE POLICY

Purpose:

The purpose of this Racehorse Welfare Policy is to ensure the welfare of registered thoroughbred racehorses in South Australia is maintained, in particular, while they are in the care of persons licensed by Thoroughbred Racing SA Limited (TRSA) and/or are involved in:

- pre-training;
- racing;
- training;
- agisting;
- other activities associated with racing, agisting, pre-training or training.

The welfare of registered thoroughbred racehorses is vital to the South Australian thoroughbred racing industry. By implementing the Racehorse Welfare Policy, TRSA is committed to protecting the welfare of registered thoroughbred racehorses as well as the interests of the public and the Industry in South Australia.

Application:

This Policy applies to all persons having care and/or control of a registered thoroughbred racehorse in South Australia.

Date of Commencement:

This Policy took effect on 1 October 2004 and was revised with the amended Policy taking effect on 1 November 2009. The Board of Thoroughbred Racing SA Limited reserves the right to repeal or amend this Policy from time to time as considered appropriate.

Policy Statement:

TRSA is committed to the welfare of the registered thoroughbred racehorse.

Current guidelines (see Appendix I) for the welfare of registered thoroughbred racehorses largely reflect those originally devised by the International Group of Specialist Racing Veterinarians (IGSRV), an Association of regulatory Veterinarians employed by horse racing authorities around the world.

TRSA, as a member of the Australian Racing Board Limited (ARB), is represented on the National Equine Integrity Welfare Advisory Group (NEIWAG). NEIWAG is the principal Advisory Group to the ARB when developing standards in relation to the welfare of thoroughbred racehorses, which includes drug control and disease management. This Group consists of veterinarians and chemists who liaise with the Equine Veterinary Association, and the Principal Racing Authorities of all States and Territories. NEIWAG also have linkages to the International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities.

TRSA therefore draws upon standards, practices and procedures developed by NEIWAG (which are benchmarked internationally), its Veterinary Surgeons and the Stewards, to formulate policy and apply international policies, such as those developed by the IGSRV in their welfare guidelines, in addition to National Welfare Guidelines.

It is the Policy of TRSA to ensure that appropriate standards for the welfare of registered thoroughbred racehorses are employed and maintained within the thoroughbred racing industry in this state and to this end the Board will make every endeavour to ensure the following activities are undertaken on a regular basis:

- Standards, procedures and rules, where applicable, will be established and scientific information reviewed regularly, regarding issues relevant to animal health and welfare, including:
 - ~ the husbandry and keeping of thoroughbred racehorses;
 - ~ the transportation of thoroughbred racehorses;
 - ~ racecourse conditions;
 - ~ racing in extreme weather conditions;
 - ~ the use of the whip;
 - ~ suitability of registered thoroughbred racehorses to compete;
 - ~ the use of prohibited substances in the industry;
 - ~ accommodation for thoroughbred racehorses;
 - ~ humane euthanasia of irreparably injured thoroughbred racehorses ;
 - ~ veterinary examination and treatment of thoroughbred racehorses;
 - ~ pregnant mares;
 - ~ emergency disease protocol;
 - ~ safety aspects at racecourses, training venues and other properties associated with the keeping of registered thoroughbred racehorses.

- Education and training provided to South Australian licensed persons and other stakeholders in the Industry will contain components on animal welfare relevant to the role performed by the person receiving training. Information will be provided to licensees and other stakeholders via TRSA’s website and the Racing Calendar. In general terms the information will relate to:
 - * Responsible ownership and care of registered thoroughbred racehorses.
 - * Good and responsible horsemanship and husbandry practices, when training, shoeing, transporting registered thoroughbred racehorses.
 - * Industry welfare standards.
 - * Responsible use of the whip and other aids within the Industry.

- Regular audits will be undertaken of registered thoroughbred racehorses under the control of licensed trainers, to assess whether the racehorses are being cared for according to the Rules of Racing and established standards for animal welfare;

- Prior to issuing licences to persons involved in caring for registered thoroughbred racehorses, TRSA will assess an applicant’s knowledge of animal welfare policies, practices and procedures;

- Any licence issued by TRSA to a person involved in caring for registered thoroughbred racehorses, may be immediately revoked or suspended by the Board in the event that:
 - a) a Steward employed by TRSA forms the belief that the health, safety or welfare of a thoroughbred racehorse is in danger and that belief is reviewed and confirmed by the TRSA Veterinary Surgeon; or
 - b) the TRSA Veterinary Surgeon forms the belief that the health, safety or welfare of a registered thoroughbred racehorse is in danger.

- Disciplinary action may be taken against any licensed person who fails to care for a registered thoroughbred racehorse in a manner that ensures the welfare of the animal is maintained according to Legislation, the Rules of Racing or established guidelines.

Legislation & Standards:

The Policy acknowledges and responds to the following Legislation and standards.

- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1985 (South Australia).
- Veterinary Practice Act, 2003 (South Australia).
- Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Commonwealth).
- AVA Code of Conduct – Veterinary Surgeons.
- EVA Code of Conduct – Veterinary Surgeons.
- IGSRV – Welfare Guidelines for Horseracing.
- Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act, 1986.
- Primary Industries Standing Committee Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Land Transport of Horses (SCARM Report 62)

Complaints:

Complaints should be addressed in writing to the Stewards Department at TRSA, for the attention of:

Mr Graham Loch
Chairman of Stewards
Thoroughbred Racing SA Limited
GPO Box 2646
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Telephone: 08 8179 9820
Fax: 08 8350 0082

Rules of Racing:

Rules of Racing are in place to support this Policy. Without derogating from the generality of the Rules of Racing, the following Rules of Racing reflect those most closely associated with this Policy:

- AR 44, 45, 53A, 53B, 53C, 64A, 64B, 64C, 64D, 64E, 64F, 64G, 64H, 137A, 137B, 140B, 141A, 141B, 175(h), 175(hh), 175(n), 175(o), 177-178D, 201;
- LR 8.6, 16, 29.1 – 29.4.

Appendix I:

1. IGSRV Welfare Guidelines for Horseracing
2. TRSA's Hot Weather Policy
3. TRSA's Aged Horses Policy – Horses 12 years old (and older)
4. TRSA's Hurdle Qualification Policy – Horses 3 years old (or younger)