

Interested in a Career in Racing?

Not Cut Out To Be a Jockey?

Read on to learn about the many
alternative careers in Racing



Careers in Racing



Get your career on track...



Did you know

The racing industry is one of Australia's largest industries and is one of the top ten employers in Australia, employing in excess of 240,000 Australians.

This booklet provides a brief overview of careers within the racing industry that may interest you.

Further information on any of the careers in this handbook can be obtained from the sources indicated or by contacting

[Racing and Wagering Western Australia](#)

[Racing Industry Training \(08\) 9277 0777](#)

[E: industrytraining@rwwa.com.au](mailto:industrytraining@rwwa.com.au)



A career in the racing and breeding industry is a rewarding experience with employment available in a diverse range of fields

Working in a racing stable

Just like any professional athlete, a racehorse is trained before competing in a race. Training stables are usually located in close proximity to race courses, however some trainers prefer to train their horses in a more secluded, relaxed environment and may even have their own training track.

Training stables are located throughout Western Australia, with employment being available in both the metropolitan and regional areas of the State.

In addition to the racing training stables, there are a large number of racehorse breeding farms within the South of Western Australia. These farms are known as Stud Farms and are where racehorses are born, and cared for during the first 18 months of their lives. Racehorses need people to care for them, feed them, exercise and train them.

Some of the jobs in a racing training stable and/or on a stud farm include:

- | Stablehand (or Strapper)
- | Trackrider
- | Stable Foreman
- | Assistant Foreman
- | Stable Manager
- | Trainer
- | Equine Dentist
- | Farrier
- | Jockey
- | Harness Driver

To work with racehorses you need to have a genuine love of the animals and not be afraid of early morning starts. Many stables will begin work at 4.30am to beat the heat of the day and to have the work finished in time to attend race meetings. However, these early morning starts also allow the flexibility of stablehands and trackriders to have another job or to continue their studies during the day.

Careers in Thoroughbred



Due to size requirements not everyone is suited to becoming a jockey, but if you're small in stature it could be your perfect job. Success as a jockey requires hard work and dedication but can be a lucrative career option.

A CAREER AS A JOCKEY

Being a Jockey is a full-time career. During your Apprenticeship you are employed by a licensed racehorse trainer and receive a fortnightly salary throughout the 4 year duration of the apprenticeship in addition to income from riding in races.

Racing and Wagering Western Australia is a Registered Training Organisation and delivers all training throughout the term of your Apprenticeship as a Jockey.

Apprentice Jockeys will be required to work in both metropolitan and regional areas of the State and ride at race meetings in all areas.

As a senior Jockey you will be self employed and also have the opportunity to ride in other countries around the world.

Jockeys receive a standard riding fee, which is reviewed from time to time, in addition to receiving 5% of any prize money won adding substantially to their income.

The adrenalin rush that riding in races provides is a unique opportunity for all jockeys. Apprentices through to leading jockeys describe winning races as an incredible feeling that they never get sick of.

Becoming a Jockey can be a tough but rewarding career. Many successful Apprentice Jockeys have had no previous involvement with horses prior to commencing a Jockey Apprenticeship – just a keenness to learn about horses and make it in a highly competitive sporting industry.

Racing

THE JOCKEY APPRENTICESHIP

RWWA offers a 4 year Jockey Apprenticeship training program. After 18 months, successful apprentices are awarded a Certificate III in (Thoroughbred) Racing - Trackrider.

At the completion of the apprenticeship, they are presented with a Certificate IV (Thoroughbred) Racing - Jockey.

An Apprenticeship as a Jockey in the West Australian thoroughbred industry offers:

- | Full employment with award wages
- | Additional income from race riding
- | On the Job training in a licensed racing stable
- | Structured classroom learning
- | Formal Qualifications
- | One on One coaching/tuition from our Riding Masters
- | 24/7 Support and encouragement from our Industry Training Department
- | Opportunity for self employment as a Professional Jockey
- | A satisfying and rewarding career
- | Opportunities for an international career

Applicants must be a minimum of 15 years of age, meet weight requirements and pass a medical examination. Applicants 18 years of age and over are also required to provide a police clearance.

For further information on becoming an apprentice Jockey, please contact:

RWWA – Racing Industry Training
(08) 9277 0777

E: industrytraining@rwwa.com.au

W: www.racingtrainingwa.com.au

Becoming a jockey





Harness Drivers

Harness Drivers are required to undertake similar training to Jockeys, however, their weight and fitness is not quite as important.

Harness Drivers are paid a fee for driving in races and receive 5% of all stake money earned by the horse they drive.

To become a Driver you are required to work in a harness stable for at least 6 months and be able to drive pacing horses in trackwork. It is then necessary to apply for a C Grade licence - this licence permits a driver to drive in trials. All trials are monitored and when you are driving with sufficient skill for the Stewards to assess you as ready to drive in races you apply for a B Grade Licence which permits you to drive in country races. Some Drivers are self employed, similar to a jockey, however, most also train horses and many undertake this as a part-time career and also have an alternate job.

Formal Training is available.

Contact:

[RWWA – Racing Industry Training \(08\) 9277 0777](http://RWWA - Racing Industry Training (08) 9277 0777)

[E: industrytraining@rwwa.com.au](mailto:industrytraining@rwwa.com.au)

Equine Dentist

Professional specialist equine dentistry care is required as part of a horse's regular health maintenance to ensure that the animal is able to pick up and chew its food correctly. This in turn affects the health of the horse and helps to overcome problems where a horse may be experiencing pain with the placement of a bit in its mouth.

To become a certified equine dentist you will need to complete a Certificate in Equine Dentistry. Unfortunately, at this point in time West Australia does not offer this course, however, it is possible to complete the qualifications through distance education combined with a block of "hands on training".

For further information, please contact:

RWWA – Racing Industry Training (08) 9277 0777

E: industrytraining@rwwa.com.au W: www.equinedentalpractice.com



Farriers

A Farrier plays a vital role in the well being and level of performance in horses - keeping their hooves in good condition and placing the appropriate shoes on horses. There is no truer saying than "no foot – no horse". A qualified Farrier is one of the most important people associated with the health and welfare of horses. Due to their proven training, skills, knowledge and commitment, almost all racing stables, stud farms and large equestrian establishments employ qualified Farriers to care for their horses' feet.

Farrier training consists of a 4 year Apprenticeship studying Certificate III Farriery comprising both on the job practical training with a qualified Farrier and off the job theory study at TAFE.

If you are interested in becoming a Farrier, please contact:

RWWA – Racing Industry Training (08) 9277 0777

E: industrytraining@rwwa.com.au

Or Swan TAFE at www.swantafe.wa.edu.au



Stablehands

A Stablehand, often referred to as a Strapper, is a person who attends and grooms racehorses. In a racing stable a Stablehand may be responsible for caring for a number of horses at any one time. Duties include grooming, feeding, tidying horse boxes/yards and attending races. Duties at the races include looking after the horse, ensuring it is safe and remains calm and also leading the horse around prior to and after it has raced.

There are full and part-time Stablehand positions in both Thoroughbred and Harness stables, many people enter stables with no formal training and learn on the job.

Most careers in racing start with a period of working as a stablehand to gain the skills and knowledge required to work with racehorses.

Formal Training: (offered by Swan TAFE):

Certificate III Racing (Advanced Stablehand)

Contact Swan TAFE Course Information:

T: (08) 9267 7500 E: info.centre@swantafe.wa.edu.au

W: www.swan.tafe.wa.edu.au

Trackriders

A Trackrider helps exercise a Racehorse by walking, trotting and galloping it under the instruction of the horse's Trainer so it is at its optimum fitness to run in races. Trackriders are similar to Jockeys but they don't ride in races and don't have the same weight restrictions as a Jockey. Many Trackriders are employed by Trainers but equally many are freelance and ride for a number of different Trainers each day.

There is a real need for Trackriders in Western Australia in both regional and metropolitan areas of the State with many Trainers seeking people with riding experience to ride trackwork.

Formal Training: Traineeships in the Certificate III in Racing – Trackrider.

RWWA – Racing Industry Training (08) 9277 0777 E: industrytraining@rwwa.com.au

OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES

With Trackriding and/or Stablehand experience, there are a significant number of international opportunities for work in the racing industry. Other countries with large racing industries include the United Kingdom, France, Hong Kong, Dubai, New Zealand and the United States.



Racehorse Trainers



Being a Racehorse Trainer is about knowing a horse's ability and strengths, its health and fitness, its character and special needs to train them to become elite equine athletes. Becoming a Racehorse Trainer requires a lot of prior experience and knowledge gained from years of working with horses and in racing training stables. The majority of Racehorse Trainers have their own stables and are self employed with a minority being employed as a "private" trainer by people who own a large number of racehorses and have their own private facilities. It is a highly competitive area of work and can be very rewarding, however, not everyone enjoys a high rate of success.

Racehorse trainers gain their experience working in stables under experienced trainers, usually as Stablehands.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All people working in a racing training stable in Western Australia must be registered or licensed with Racing and Wagering Western Australia. If you would like to find out further information about working in a racing training stable, training courses available in Western Australia or Licensing requirements, please contact:

RWWA – Racing Industry Training (08) 9277 0777

E: industrytraining@rwwa.com.au





The Breeding Industry

Australia has the second largest stallion and broodmare population in the world behind the USA. The majority of Australian bred horses are sold and raced in Australia although a significant number are exported overseas.

Jobs in the breeding industry are generally with Stud farms of which there are many within Western Australia with the large majority being in the South West of the State.

Obtaining a job on a stud farm is generally the first step to a career in the breeding industry. Stablehand or any horse handling experience are the usual requirements to commence employment as a Stud hand.

Jobs available on Stud farms are many and varied including:

- | Stud Hand
- | Foal Watch Assistant (seasonal)
- | Yearling Preparation Groom (seasonal)
- | Stallion Handler
- | Broodmare Manager
- | Stud Manager
- | Pedigree Analyst
- | Administration Officer

SEASONAL AND CASUAL WORK

The Australian thoroughbred breeding season begins with foals born between August and December, followed by the yearling sales from January to April each year. It is during these months that stud farms increase their casual labour and presents a great opportunity to start work in the industry.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

When the breeding season finishes in Australia, the Northern Hemisphere season is just getting started. There are many international opportunities to work for major stud farms in Ireland, France and the United States just to name a few. Many young people who have gained experience working on a stud farm in Australia can find their way working and travelling around the world

ADMINISTRATION OPPORTUNITIES

The breeding industry also provides clerical, management, marketing and sales opportunities. People with the relevant skills and qualifications are highly sought after. For further information on jobs in the breeding industry contact:

Swan TAFE – Certificate III –

Advanced Stablehand Course Information:

T: (08) 9267 7500

E: info.centre@swantafe.wa.edu.au

W: www.swan.tafe.wa.edu.au

West Australian Bloodstock Breeders Association

W: www.watba.com.au





Careers in Greyhound

You may have a dog in your backyard that chases after the odd stick or tennis ball but have you ever seen them hit speeds of 65 kilometres per hour?

That's the speed greyhounds clock up during their races and if you have ever contemplated a career with the 'longtails' this will outline some of the possibilities.

The greyhound racing industry is an ever-growing business that employs hundreds of people in Western Australia each year. Like all business, greyhound racing has a broad range of career opportunities, both part-time and full-time.

Listed below are a host of different jobs within the greyhound industry :

TRAINER : Most greyhound trainers commence their involvement as a hobby and develop their skills, with many of them making the transition from part-time to full-time once they are established with regular winners. In order to become a trainer you must pass both a written exam as well as a practical test to show you have the knowledge and experience required to prepare canines for racing. In addition to passing the written and practical tests you must have suitable kennelling facilities for your racedogs, either at your home, property or at a rented facility. Greyhounds don't take holidays so it is a genuine full-time role but the financial rewards for successful trainers can be very attractive.

VETS : At every race meeting and qualifying trial session a fully qualified Vet is in attendance to check over the dogs and attend to any injuries or illness. Every greyhound at every meeting is vetted prior to being kennelled and the vet plays a very hands on role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of greyhounds on race day. The standard tertiary qualifications plus some working knowledge of greyhounds is required for such a position.

Racing



TRACK STAFF : In order to keep the racing surface and the surrounds of the track in pristine condition, the raceclubs employ track staff which attend to a variety of duties including surface preparation, maintenance of grounds and gardens, general repair services and overall upkeep of the grounds. The racetrack is a vital ingredient of greyhound racing and the majority of the track staffs' time is spent ensuring the race surface is in fine condition. The track staff employ a range of people from different backgrounds including horticulturalists, greenkeepers, curators, lawnmowers and gardeners.

KENNEL STAFF : At every greyhound race meeting all of the dogs are checked by the Vet and then taken to an air conditioned kennel where they stay secure until it is time to get ready for their race. Kennel staff facilitate this process by weighing greyhounds and recording their details, distributing stretch vests and kennel cards, assisting stewards and the Vet where applicable and maintaining cleanliness in the kennel block. There are approximately 6 kennel staff employed at each race meeting and all of them are employed on a casual or part-time basis. No experience is required to become a part of the Kennel Staff, just a common sense approach and the ability to work whenever the race meetings are on.

CATCHERS : After the running of each race the greyhounds stop in an area called the Catching Pen. Once they reach the catching pen they are greeted by a catcher who puts a collar and lead on them and escorts them off the track into the kennels. Many young people catch greyhounds to earn a bit of extra pocket money. You have to be an approved catcher in order to complete this task.

LURE DRIVER : Everyone who has seen a greyhound race will know there is a mechanical bunny which the greyhounds chase called the lure. The person who drives the bunny (the lure driver) sits above the track and is instructed to keep the bunny within clear sight of the leading greyhound. This is a specialized role and requires a licence to operate.

ADMIN : In addition to the specialized greyhound racing roles there are jobs involved in finance, operations, marketing and media, food and beverage and secretarial with standard tertiary education the general requirement to acquire such positions.

Contact:

RWWA – Racing Services (08) 9277 0777



Administration

and Customer

Most full-time administration jobs require some experience and qualifications in their relevant fields such as general office administration, finance, sales, marketing, event management etc.. Effective communication skills and computer skills are also requirements.

Jobs within racing clubs are usually extremely competitive and gaining race day experience, and making contacts within the industry will help improve your chances when applying for a position.

Administration job opportunities in the racing industry include positions such as:

- | Administration Officer
- | Customer Service Officer
- | Finance Clerk
- | Executive Assistant
- | Marketing Coordinator
- | Events Coordinator
- | Media and Communications Coordinator
- | Payroll Officer
- | Human Resource Officer
- | IT Opportunities

Australia has more racing clubs and racecourses than any other country in the world. All of these clubs require administration and customer service staff with employment opportunities in both regional and metropolitan areas.



Service

The busiest time for racing in Western Australia is the Summer Racing Carnival during which time a number of casual positions will often require filling. These include roles such as:

- | Car Park Attendants
- | Ticket Sellers
- | Gate Attendants
- | Food and Beverage Staff
- | Promotional Staff

The basic skills required for the above casual positions are good customer service skills, computer skills and cash handling skills. The length of employment will vary between different race clubs, however the experience will help you learn more about the racing industry, giving you race day experience and the opportunity to meet people within the industry.

For further information in relation to jobs in Racing Administration and Customer Service please contact:

RWWA – Human Resources (08) 9445 5544

W: www.rwwa.com.au E: info@rwwa.com.au

Perth Racing (08) 9277 0777 W: www.waturf.org.au

Or Contact your local race club



Careers in Racing

Further details can be obtained from
Racing and Wagering Western Australia

E: training@rwwa.com.au

W: www.rwwa.com.au

T: 08 9277 0777



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA