



OWNERSHIP INITIATIVE [THOROUGHBREDS]



RACING AND WAGERING RESTRICTIONS 2014-2015



THIS BOOKLET WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXCITING WORLD OF THOROUGHBRED OWNERSHIP.

Ever watched the Melbourne Cup, witnessed the wild celebrations of connections after the race and wished it was you?

Well we cannot guarantee that you will ever own a Cup winner but anyone that has owned a thoroughbred will tell you that watching them race is one of the biggest thrills you will ever experience.

"The Sport of Kings" is currently booming in WA with record prize money levels, healthy racetrack attendances and swelling betting turnover.

Being a participant in the thoroughbred racing scene is surprisingly easy and with different forms of ownership including syndication, virtually every budget is catered for.

If you purchase a share in a handy galloper and luck is on your side it can prove financially fruitful with

metropolitan *stakes each Saturday \$45,000, midweek meetings at \$20,000 and provincial stakes upwards of \$10,000. Throw in the dozens of feature races annually run, plus very solid stakemoney levels at picnic-style meetings and the earning opportunities are significant.

Owning a thoroughbred can be done as an individual, in a partnership or with a group of people (friends/workmates/sporting team mates) in a syndicate, or you can lease a horse.

In all cases, owners will be required to be licensed with Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWAA) via a completed application form and a small annual fee.

Being well informed prior to making purchasing decisions is important so here is some helpful advice to start you on the right path.

*Stakemoney correct at May 2007

THOROUGHBRED OWNERSHIP MADE EASY

Getting started

The first step is identifying a trainer to guide you in the right direction.

Trainers give your horse the work required to reach prime racing condition. They are experts in their field and ideally can not only condition your horse, but set it for a racing campaign to maximise your prospects of a healthy financial return. You can have the best horse in the state but without a quality trainer, it is highly unlikely to ever reach its true potential.

Finding the trainer who is right for you requires some thought. As a guide, have a look at the "Trainers Premiership Tables" and also look for trainers with good strike rates. Trainers with good winning strike rates may only have small numbers of horses but know how to get the best out of their stock providing a high ratio of winners and placegetters to runners.

If you are a keen punter perhaps there is a stable that you have had success following. If you have been impressed with how a particular trainer has handled their stable, that may be a good starting point when looking to enquire about purchasing your horse.

There is an up to date list of public trainers printed every two months in the Racing Ahead magazine which can be made available to potential owners. For further information contact David Shortte or Zane Arthur – Club Promotions and Development Officers at RWWA on 9445 5333.

When you contact the prospective trainers, it is critical that you are comfortable with them and address a number of points to ensure you understand all aspects of the relationship and commitment you are making. Now that you will be paying the bills for the horse, it is important that you are kept informed of what is going on with your steed.

Some of the issues you might like to address with potential trainers are :

- What is your proposed training fee structure? (This will vary according to the stable's record, percentage of prizemoney retained by the trainer etc.)
- Do you foresee any extra charges other than training fees?
- What are the plans for communicating with the owners (phone calls, emails, website, faxes etc.) in relation to the horse?
- When can I visit my horse?
- What tracks do you prefer to race your horses at?
- Where will my horse be based when it is in work and spelling?
- How many horses are you currently training?
- What style of horses have you had the most success with? (eg. young, old, sprinters, stayers etc.)
- Where have your most successful horses come from in the past? (yearling sales/proven race horses/locally/interstate etc.)
- What sort of horse would you suggest for me as a first timer? (proven race horse/yearling/2-year old etc.)

Once you have answers to all these questions, you will form an opinion on what style of training operation will best suit your needs and expectations as an owner.

SYNDICATION

If the process or budget required for outright purchase is a little excessive while you test the water of horse ownership, a syndication is a fantastic way to minimise your contribution of time and money while still enjoying the thrill of owning a racehorse.

Syndication will give you a percentage share in a horse, (or horses) and the selection of the horse, trainer, jockey etc. can be left up to the professionals (either the Syndicator or the manager of the syndicate).

It's an ideal way to dip the toe in the water and once you've been involved as a syndicate player, the opportunity always exists to buy a horse outright or perhaps take a majority share in a partnership to increase your level of influence over the horse's career.

As well as being a great learning experience and means to manage financial commitment, syndication also presents the opportunity to make some great new friends. Many syndication groups co-ordinate social events for their members and encourage the large groups of syndicate members to gather and cheer on their representatives on race day. A high number of syndicates are formed by workmates, team mates, family members and friends and the exercise becomes

a great side interest for people to enjoy each others company.

Syndicates normally have 10–20 members and need to be registered with the principal body (Racing and Wagering Western Australia) in the state with a representative or Manager appointed.

The Syndicate Manager is responsible for overseeing the finances of the syndicate, and is expected to report to fellow members on a regular basis.

[SYNDICATION IS A FANTASTIC WAY TO ENJOY THE OWNERSHIP OF A HORSE WHILST MINIMISING YOUR OUTLAY]



THE LIFE OF A THOROUGHBRED



Any prizemoney earned by your racehorse is sent to the Syndicate manager to be distributed to the syndicate members.

Nowadays most syndicates have their own website which allows all members the opportunity to keep up to date with the horse's progress via a newpage. It would be impossible for the trainer to contact the entire syndicate by phone but by maintaining the website everyone is aware of the horse's condition and progress.

Deciding on which syndicate to join is also an important decision to make. Be prepared to ask questions such as:

- What are the costs?
- Are there any ongoing fees?

• What benefits will I receive by being involved in this syndicate?

• Have you had success in the past?

• How will you keep us informed of news etc?

Training Fees

Training fees will differ greatly from stable to stable and state to state depending upon the success of the trainer, the quality of the training facilities and the stakemoney percentage retained by the trainer.

Metro trainers who predominantly race at the city tracks for the bigger prizemoney generally attract a larger fee than their provincial counterparts.

The following training fees are a rough guide for annual training fees based on 100% ownership. Note these

fees can differ greatly depending upon the overall training package in place.

Leading Trainer - \$27,500 p.a

Metropolitan/Provincial Trainer - \$20,000 p.a

Country Trainer - \$15,000 p.a

Disclaimer: Training fees are an indication only

Fee Structures

Horses are much like our elite human athletes and require rest periods in between racing campaigns, so they can perform at optimum level.

Consequently, there are generally separate fees for when they are in work (full training) and when they are spelling in the paddock, also known as agistment.

When a horse goes to the paddock for a spell they are given time to relax both mentally and physically. They get to have some time out and recover from any injuries and in general it is time to have a little holiday before they return to their busy training regime.

A lot of horses are sent to a separate facility for their spell and the cost to keep them during this period is considerably less than when they are in full training receiving intense individual attention.

While spelling, the cost will generally be between \$15 - \$30 per day plus any other expenses such as veterinary bills.

Once the horse returns to full work with their trainer, the time put into them increases greatly resulting in the fees rising to anywhere from \$50 - \$80 per day.

BUYING YOUR RACEHORSE

Now that you have seen the costs involved and found your trainer it is time to go and buy your potential star of the track.

There is no one hard and fast rule when it comes to buying a horse but generally you are looking for a strong pedigree, (a history of success from the bloodlines of the mother and father) and good conformation (sound

appearance, trouble free bones and joints, upright stance etc.). By purchasing WA bred horses in the local sales you also increase your earning potential with the opportunity to race in locally bred events, and for Westspeed Scheme bonuses.

The age at which you purchase your horse is also an important decision to make with some people opting to buy at a very young age while other people are happy to wait until later and buy a proven racehorse.

Below are the different age groups you can purchase horses at :

Weanlings

A Weanling is a horse under the age of one who has been removed from the care of it's mother.

Yearlings (One Year Old)

There are a number of high profile thoroughbred sales throughout Australia annually where yearlings go under the hammer at auctions. By this stage of their life they are physically mature enough to be assessed but have not yet been tried on the track so there is still an 'x' factor in relation to their future.

Two Year Olds

Once a horse has its second birthday it is eligible to race in age restricted 2 year old events where it can race against horses of similar experience and age. Some horses are ready to race at this age while others are simply too immature.

Generally by this stage the horse has been tested on the track but will have a limited number of racetrack appearances in this year to ensure their long term health and to allow their bones, tendons and joints to continue to strengthen.

Three Year Olds and Upwards

Barring bad luck and mishaps, most horses are strengthened up and ready to race as three year olds and can begin a series of racing campaigns.

A lot of race horses, while staying sound, can race up until they are eight or nine year olds with some going even longer than that.

When buying from this category you are generally looking at proven performers and as a rule you will get what you pay for in relation to their race track performance.

There are certain horses that can improve in a certain environment or if trained in a different manner but most times "a good horse is a good horse" and their career statistics are always a sound indication of their ability.

Before buying a horse it is strongly advised that you get it checked by a qualified Vet who can identify any injuries or flaws in your potential purchase. This process ensures you have piece of mind when acquiring your new runner and allows you to know what you are getting yourself in for if it does have any prior injuries or physical abnormalities.

HORSE SALES

Each year Australia wide there are a number of popular horse sales which take place including the Magic Millions Yearling Sales here in Perth.

Each of these horse sales have separate benefits and most times there will be some events made available to **graduates from these sales exclusive to horses bought at these sales. For example Magic Millions run rich feature event races in Perth each year for 2 and 3 year olds that have been exclusively purchased from their sales.**

The horse sale is a public auction, and you are welcome to bid on any horse in the sale, providing you

have the finance available. Most sales companies will have an area where you can register to bid, where they will ensure you have adequate funds available to bid in the auction. It is important to remember to register to bid if you intend to get involved in the sale.

Your trainer will no doubt have been to their share of sales in their lifetime and will be a valuable source of information when looking to buy your horse at a sale. Their input on breeding, confirmation, value for money etc. could be the difference between getting a star or a pretender.

Finally if you are a successful bidder you will be required to make full payment before the horse will be transferred into your ownership and into the care of your designated trainer.

Insurance

Whether or not you decide to insure your horse is a personal decision and often is determined by the amount of money you spend to purchase your horse in the first place. Much like a motor vehicle the more expensive the horse the more it costs to insure and the other determining factor is the potential earnings of the horse and it's breeding potential when it's race career is finished.

There are a number of licensed insurance agents who specialize in bloodstock policies.

Benefits of Ownership

In addition to receiving the winner's cheques, owners have the exclusive right to appear in the winner's circle after your horse's wins to take part in the celebrations and be a part of the winning photo with the Jockey.

Trainer/Horse and fellow owners. The chance to meet up and celebrate with your fellow connections is a magical feeling as anyone who has experienced will vouch for.

As an outright owner or even as a syndicate you have the opportunity to register your own personalised set of race colours. Many horses race in the colours registered by the trainer, however many owners decide to create their own unique set of colours. For more information on how to register your set of colours contact the RWWA Licensing and Registrations Department on 9277 0788 or email licreginfo@rwwa.com.au

Leasing a Thoroughbred

Leasing a race horse is a practical way for some people to own a race horse without the initial costs.

A thoroughbred owner can lease a horse to a person, group of people or syndicate, and when this occurs the designated lessees take over the payment of all costs relating to the horse and control the racing career of the horse for the period of the lease.

Lease periods vary from contract to contract but as a rule they will generally last for two to three years.

Once the term of the lease is up the horse is returned to the owner unless terms to renew or purchase have been included.

Breeders and trainers lease horses they wish to retain ownership of, often for breeding purposes while keeping a small interest in their racing careers. Racehorse leases are often of benefit to both parties with one group receiving a horse to race without the initial setup costs and the initial owner(s) receiving a percentage of stakemoney (generally 1/3 of stakes) without the ongoing costs.

It pays to ask your trainer if you are looking to lease a horse as they will normally be aware of any potential horses that are available that look suitable.

[BEFORE BUYING A HORSE IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT YOU GET IT CHECKED BY A QUALIFIED VET WHO CAN IDENTIFY ANY INJURIES OR FLAWS IN YOUR POTENTIAL PURCHASE]





THE ADDED INCENTIVE OF BEING WEST AUSTRALIAN BRED

Westspeed Scheme

As in all other Australian States the Western Australian racing industry provides breeding incentive schemes to foster and promote the local racing product.

For further information get online to www.rwwa.com.au click on the header racing, click on thoroughbreds and then click on Westspeed. All information in relation to the WA bred Westspeed is available in this section.

Important Contacts

RWWA: Racing and Wagering Western Australia
Address: 14 Hasler Rd, Osborne Park WA 6017
Phone: (08) 9445 5544
Fax: (08) 9244 5914
E-mail: info@rwwa.com.au
Internet: www.rwwa.com.au

RWWA Thoroughbred Racing Department
Racing Manager : David Hunter
Address: 14 Hasler Rd, OSBORNE PARK WA 6017
Trainers' Service Centre Ph : (08) 9445 5277
24 Hour Nomination Service Ph : (08) 9445 5278
Fax (09) 9445 9312
Email : racing@rwwa.com.au
Office Hours : 7.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Saturday.

ASCOT RACE COURSE

Race Days Ph : (08) 9277 0713

BELMONT RACE COURSE

Race Days Ph : (08) 9470 8222

LICENSING & REGISTRATIONS DEPARTMENT

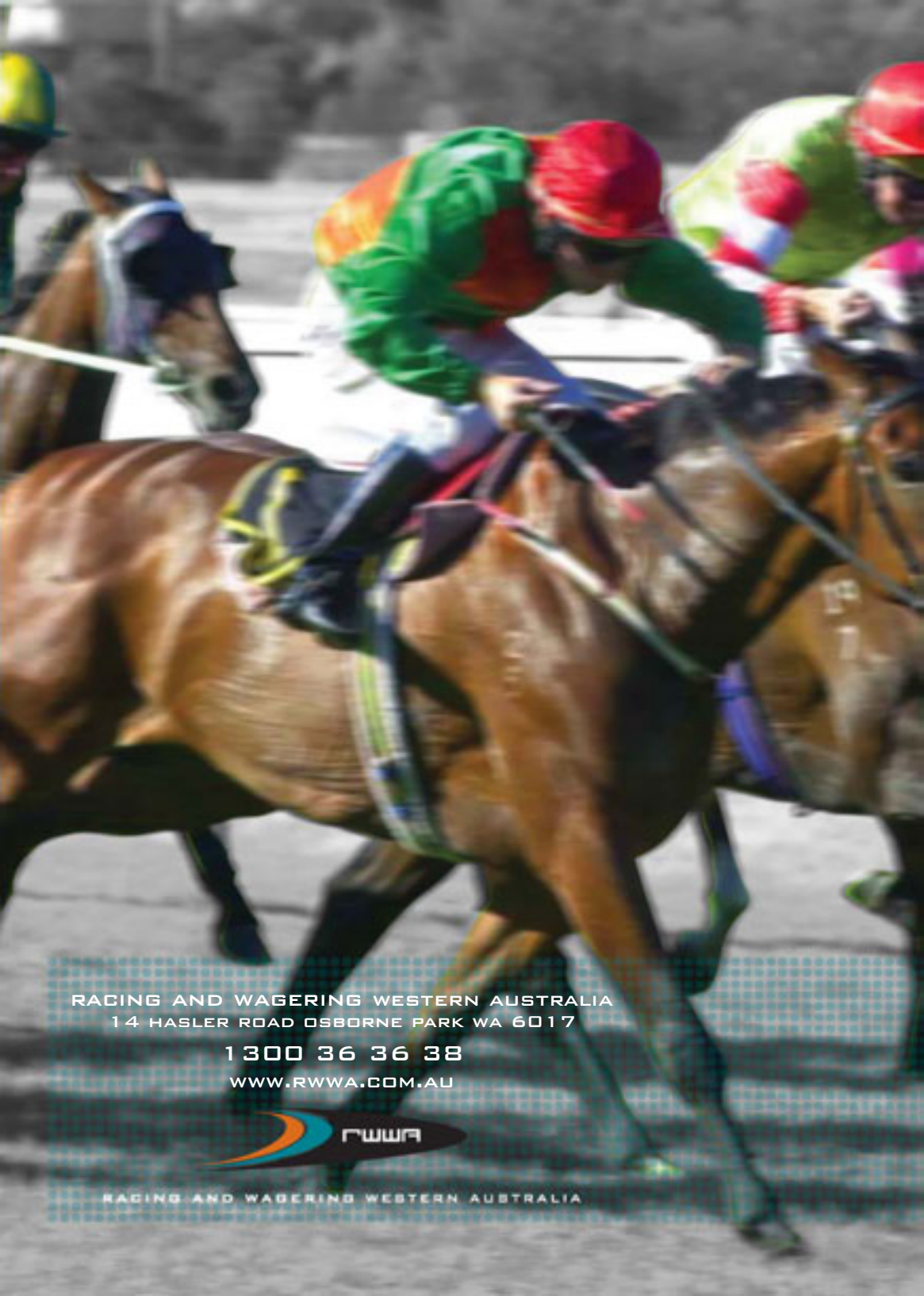
70 Grandstand Road ASCOT
PO Box 255 CLOVERDALE WA 6985
Email : licreginfo@rwwa.com.au
Telephone : (08) 9277 0788
Fax : (08) 9277 0790

PERTH RACING

70 Grandstand Road ASCOT 6104
Email : www.waturf.org.au
Ph : (08) 9277 0777
Fax : (08) 9277 0710

WA RACEHORSE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (INC.)

President : Mr. Peter Morley
Executive Officer Mr. Darren McAullay
Telephone : (08) 9296 0481 Mobile : 0418 914 340
PO Box 404 Belmont WA 6984



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA
14 HASLER ROAD OSBORNE PARK WA 6017

1300 36 36 38

WWW.RWWA.COM.AU



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