

# WA RACEHORSE WELFARE PLAN

In November 2019, Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWAA) developed a welfare plan that incorporates all stages of a racehorse's life through a program of investment, education, monitoring and regulation. Since then, the following progress has been made in relation to each area identified as requiring immediate focus to safeguard the welfare of our horses.

FOCUS AREAS	ACTION	OUTCOME
<p><b>Traceability</b></p> <p>Create broader and more comprehensive traceability of racehorses during all stages of their lives.</p>	<p> <b>WA Racehorse Passport:</b> RWAA's Off the Track WA Passport was launched in August 2020. The initiative is designed to ascertain details of the location and life of horses once they leave the care of the racing industry.</p> <p> <b>Compliance and enforcement:</b> Considerable progress has been made in this area, with a comprehensive WA racehorse census being undertaken of horses currently registered for racing. Completion is expected by the end of 2020.</p> <p> <b>Industry education:</b> Industry briefing sessions have been scheduled across the State to further educate industry participants on expected welfare standards and the WA Racehorse Welfare Plan.</p> <p> <b>National Horse Traceability Register:</b> RWAA is continuing to work with Racing Australia and Harness Racing Australia to push for the Federal Government to introduce a National Horse Traceability Register.</p> <p> <b>Licensing of WA breeders:</b> Consultation has commenced with WA breeders regarding the development of a licensing framework, with further consultation underway.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Initiatives have been implemented to gather further data and information about retired racehorses.</li> <li>✓ Significant progress has been made in establishing frameworks supporting increased compliance, accountability and transparency within the industry.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rehoming</b></p> <p>Assist in the transition of retired racehorses to equestrian and pleasure pursuits, and provide support for their ongoing wellbeing.</p>	<p> <b>Retirement rule:</b> A framework is being developed to implement a new WA rule of racing, whereby industry participants must aim to rehome all healthy and behaviourally sound thoroughbred and standardbred racehorses.</p> <p> <b>Racehorse welfare facility:</b> RWAA purchased its multi-purpose racehorse welfare facility, the Off the Track WA Estate, in December 2019. The Estate cares for any emergency welfare cases that emerge through RWAA's Integrity Department. The Estate also forms an important part of the Off the Track WA Retraining Program, in addition to accommodating clinics and events for owners of off the track horses.</p> <p> <b>Off the Track WA Retraining Program:</b> The Off the Track WA Retraining Program launched in September 2020. The Program encompasses the Off the Track WA Estate and a network of Official Retrainers, who provide retired racehorses with the necessary skills and experiences needed to transition from racing to their second career as a pleasure or performance horse.</p> <p> <b>Off the Track WA:</b> Additional investments have been made towards RWAA's Off the Track WA program, including the launch of a dedicated website which hosts a buy-and-sell function for retired racehorses. The program has also introduced a series of clinics, as well as provided sponsorships to other equestrian events which encourage the participation of off the track horses. To assist in the implementation of such initiatives, additional personnel to the Off the Track WA team have been recruited.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Dedicated platform to promote retired racehorses as pleasure or performance horses established.</li> <li>✓ Increased investment towards encouraging ownership and supporting current owners of retired racehorses.</li> <li>✓ Official Retrainers to assist retired racehorses in the transition from racing to pleasure or performance pursuits have been sourced.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Abattoirs and knackeries</b></p> <p>Seek a sustainable reporting process for WA-registered abattoirs and knackeries, supporting the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's current regulation.</p>	<p> <b>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):</b> An MoU has been agreed and established between RWAA and WA's recognised knackery and abattoir to ensure welfare standards are upheld, as well as introducing a mandatory reporting process to assist with traceability and transparency. RWAA is also in the final stages of introducing a local rule of racing, whereby participants must only use a facility that holds an MoU with RWAA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increased transparency of reporting achieved.</li> <li>✓ A method to ensure welfare standards are upheld at such facilities in WA has been established.</li> <li>✓ A local rule to ensure use of mandated facilities will be in effect from 1 November 2020.</li> </ul>