



RACING AND WAGERING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



LIFE AFTER RACING





NEW RETIREMENT RULE FOR RACEHORSES FROM 1 AUGUST 2021

WHAT TO KNOW

Racing and Wagering Western Australia aims for all healthy and behaviourally sound thoroughbred and standardbred horses to be rehomed at the end of their racing careers. To help achieve this, a new local rule of racing requires owners to make reasonable efforts to rehome horses. Rules of Racing LR313 (Thoroughbred) and LR96B (Harness) come into effect on 1 August 2021, and failure to comply may lead to penalties.

WHAT TO DO

Long-established retirement pathways used by industry for the transition of thoroughbred and standardbred horses to post-racing homes will continue. Where an owner expects a horse to retire for breeding or a post-racing home is already planned, the standard notifications and timeframes still apply. The horse may be rehomed without carrying out any further steps listed below.

Under the new retirement rule, where an owner or trainer decides to retire or deregister a horse but no post-racing home has already been organised, at least two of these options must be undertaken:

- Advertising the horse in no less than two recognised media platforms (such as Off the Track WA website, Cavaletti classifieds or Rehome a Racehorse Facebook page) for at least six weeks.
- Applying to re-home the horse through a credible animal adoption or re-homing agency, including the Off the Track WA (OTTWA) retraining program.
- Consigning the horse to a public auction
- Consigning the horse to an industry auction.

When re-homing a retired racehorse, the new owners should be encouraged to create an OTTWA Passport, which helps RWWA create support programs, improve welfare and understand the lives and locations of former racehorses. Benefits for new owners include:

- Attending OTTWA clinics and events
- Accessing exclusive educational and support materials
- Learning more about their horse's previous career.

WHEN EXCEPTIONS ARISE

The goal is for all healthy and behaviourally sound racehorses to retire to second careers as companion, pleasure or performance horses. Clear evidence must be presented in cases where there is a medical or behavioural reason why a horse is unable to be rehomed. The requirement to attempt rehoming is not required in the following circumstances:

- On humane grounds for a seriously ill or injured horse
- When a vet has assessed a horse as unsuitable for rehoming for medical reasons
- When evidence is provided that a horse is unsuitable for rehoming due to dangerous behaviour.

Euthanasia may be performed by a registered vet or service provider complying with welfare standards.

Local rules require industry participants to use knackeries which have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with RWWA. Southdale is the only facility currently registered with the relevant government authorities and with a RWWA MoU to ensure high welfare standards and reporting processes for tracing retired racehorses. A local rule also prohibits the transport of racehorses to knackeries or abattoirs in other states.

The retirement rehoming rule does not apply to horses that have been retired for breeding for at least 12 months or over the age of 15.

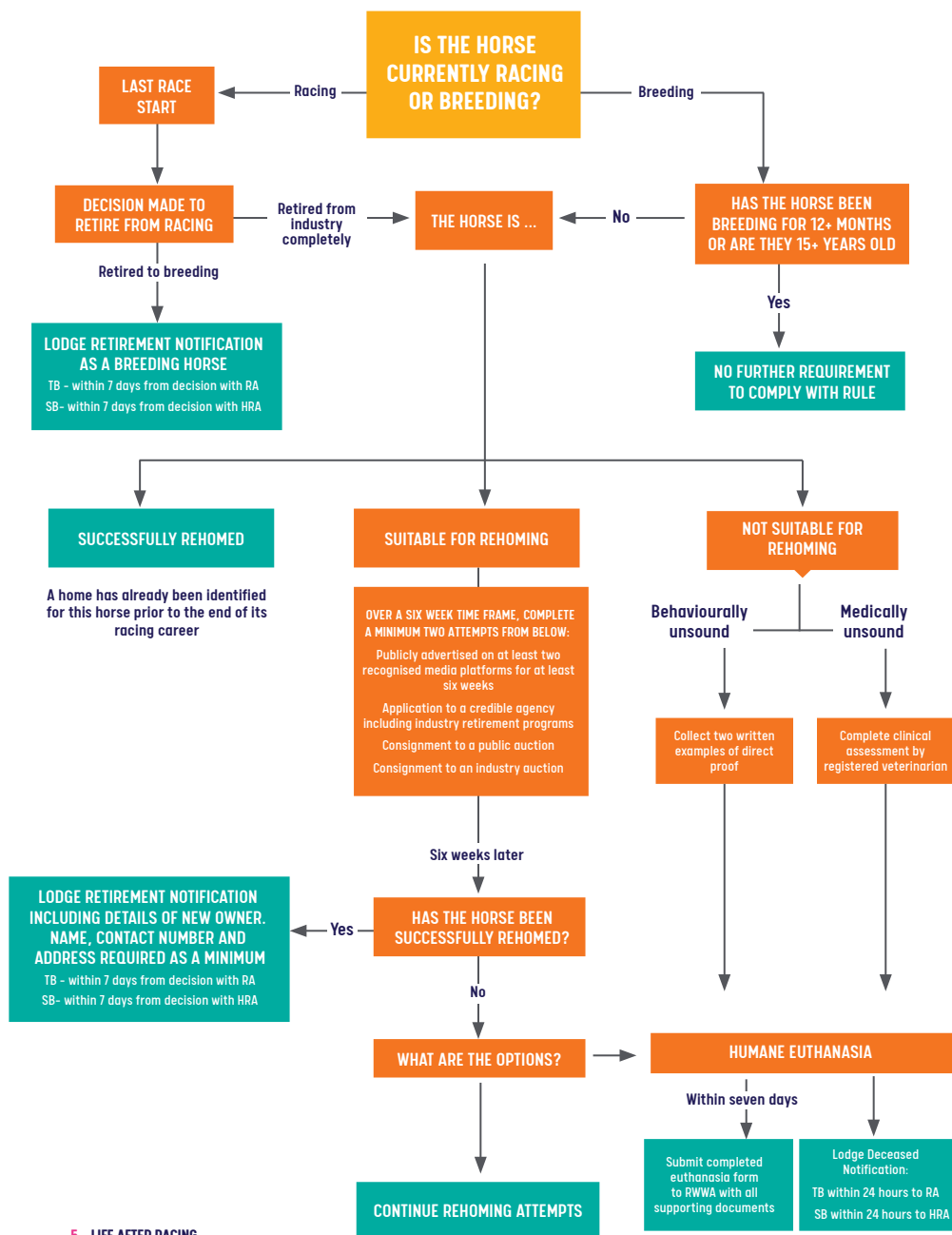
MORE INFORMATION

Contact RWWA by email at equinetraceability@rwwa.com.au or call 9445 5333

RWWA Local Rule of Retirement: Thoroughbred (LR313) and Harness (LR96B)
www.rwwa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Racing-and-Wagering-WA-Local-Rule-of-Retirement.pdf



PATHWAYS FOR RACING RETIREMENT



CHECKLIST FOR RETIREMENT AND REHOMING

- Complete the appropriate retirement paperwork and ensure the horse has been deregistered for racing.
- Identify a suitable pathway for the horse. Consider the requirements for anyone taking on the horse as well as any special care needs the horse may have.
- Advertise the horse for sale directly from racing on the Off the Track website buy and sell page or another media platform such as Cavaletti.
- Find and contact a recognised retrainer to take on the horse for re-education and assistance with rehoming.
- Apply to enter the Off the Track WA Retraining Program.
- Consider other steps for placing the horse such as taking current photos for advertisements, arranging a vet check and organising spelling for a let-down period or recovery from any minor injuries.



REHOMING AND RETRAINING WITH OFF THE TRACK WA

Off the Track WA (OTTWA) promotes thoroughbreds and standardbreds in their second careers as pleasure or performance horses.

There are many avenues for rehoming a racehorse once it retires. Options within the industry suit some horses while others move on to new pursuits. Some pathways include:

- Direct to stud or returned to breeder
- Industry sales
- Sale direct from racing
- Retrained for equestrian or pleasure pursuits prior to sale.

OTTWA supports horses through sale direct from racing or by retraining before sale.

SALE DIRECT FROM RACING - OTTWA WEBSITE

Industry participants can list horses through OTTWA's buy and sell page until a suitable new home is found. Simply fill in a form, supply pictures and OTTWA does the rest for free.

View OTTWA's buy and sell page at offthetrackwa.com.au/sell-an-ott-horse

RETRAINING BEFORE SALE - OTTWA RETRAINING PROGRAM

Alternately, retraining a racehorse may increase its appeal for buyers and suitability for a variety of riders.

The OTTWA Retraining Program includes a network of retrainers with the skills and experience to help racehorses transition to new careers.

Horses accepted into the program are evaluated on arrival at the estate and allocated to a trainer for re-education and preparation for sale. Priority is given to horses more challenging to rehome, such as those in remote areas.

OTTWA SUPPORT

The program supports retired racehorses by:

- Hosting statewide off the track clinics and events
- Sponsoring off the track classes and prizes at events
- Promoting retrainers and rehoming services
- Hosting a free "Find A Horse" and "Sell A Horse" service
- Providing education materials to guide and support those with off the track horses
- The OTTWA Retraining Program
- Providing a range of discounts and benefits from equine businesses for owners of retired horses registered for an OTTWA Passport

MORE INFORMATION

Rehoming – offthetrackwa.com.au/rehoming

Retraining – offthetrackwa.com.au/ottwa-retraining-program

Contact the Retraining and Rehoming Coordinator by email on offthetrackwa@rwwa.com.au or call 9445 5333.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES THE NEW RULE CHANGE THE OLD WAYS OF REHOMING HORSES?

Where a horse is being retired for breeding or a new owner is ready and willing to take a horse straight from racing, the process is unchanged. Owners and trainers are encouraged to continue using established rehoming pathways. As usual, a retirement notification as either a breeding horse or with the name, number and address of the new owner must be lodged within seven days of the decision for a thoroughbred and standardbred.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS FOR USING THE OFF THE TRACK WA (OTTWA) RETRAINING PROGRAM?

Horses are taken into the program for free. However, the application process requires a vet check and a rebate of up to \$200 is available to cover this expense. A transport rebate may also be claimed for horses located more than 50km from the estate. OTTWA covers all retraining and rehoming expenses of horses in their care.

HOW IS OTTWA FUNDED?

The OTTWA Estate and OTTWA Retraining Program are funded by Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA), through profits of the WA TAB and income generated by the WA Racing Bets Levy and part proceeds of the Point of Consumption Tax paid by wagering operators.

WHAT HORSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

Both thoroughbreds and standardbreds can be accepted, following an application process to ensure the OTTWA Retraining Program is a suitable pathway for the horse. Acceptance is based on a range of factors such as spelling period, location, soundness and condition, plus a veterinary assessment. The full criteria and terms and conditions are at offthetrackwa.com.au/how-to-apply-for-the-off-the-track-wa-retraining-program

WHO OWNS THE HORSE ONCE IT IS ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM?

Horses must be released from current ownership when accepted into the facility, with custody granted to RWWA for assessment and retraining or rehoming.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A HORSE ISN'T ACCEPTED INTO THE OTTWA RETRAINING PROGRAM OR THE WAITLIST IS TOO LONG? WHAT OTHER REHOMING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are various approaches for rehoming behaviourally and medically sound horses. They can be sold or given away direct from racing through a variety of advertising avenues, including the OTTWA sales page offthetrackwa.com.au/sell-an-ott-horse, which is free. Another pathway is to arrange retraining prior to sale, in which case see RWWA's Recognised Retrainers page offthetrackwa.com.au/retrainers-map. The OTTWA Retraining and Rehoming Coordinator will assist where possible to responsibly rehome horses. Contact 9445 5333 or email offthetrackwa@rwwa.com.au.

WHAT IF ALL REHOMING ATTEMPTS FAIL?






Industry participants must consider all options and make all efforts to rehome physically and behaviourally sound horses. Should rehoming attempts be unsuccessful and a horse is euthanased, the declaration form submitted to RWWA must include documentary proof of rehoming attempts and dates of the process. The new retirement rule does not prohibit on property euthanasia by a veterinarian or a properly trained and experienced person using a humane method detailed in the relevant standards and guidelines (Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock 2012).

WHAT IF MY HORSE IS NOT SOUND OR HAS BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS?

Clear evidence must be presented of medical or behavioural reasons why a horse cannot be rehomed. Euthanasia may be performed by a registered vet or service provider when a horse is unsuitable for rehoming due to vet-assessed medical reasons or when evidence of dangerous behaviour is provided. Local rules require industry participants to use knackeries or abattoirs which have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with RWWA and prohibit the transport of racehorses to facilities in other states. Southdale is the only facility currently registered with the relevant government authorities and with a RWWA MoU to ensure high welfare standards and reporting processes for tracing retired racehorses.



RACING AND WAGERING
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

-  animalwelfare@rwwa.com.au
-  weareanimalpeople.com.au
-  [@rwwaofficial](https://www.instagram.com/rwwaofficial)
-  [@OfficialRWWA](https://twitter.com/OfficialRWWA)
-  [/racingandwageringwa](https://www.facebook.com/racingandwageringwa)

*Printed copies are available on request.

