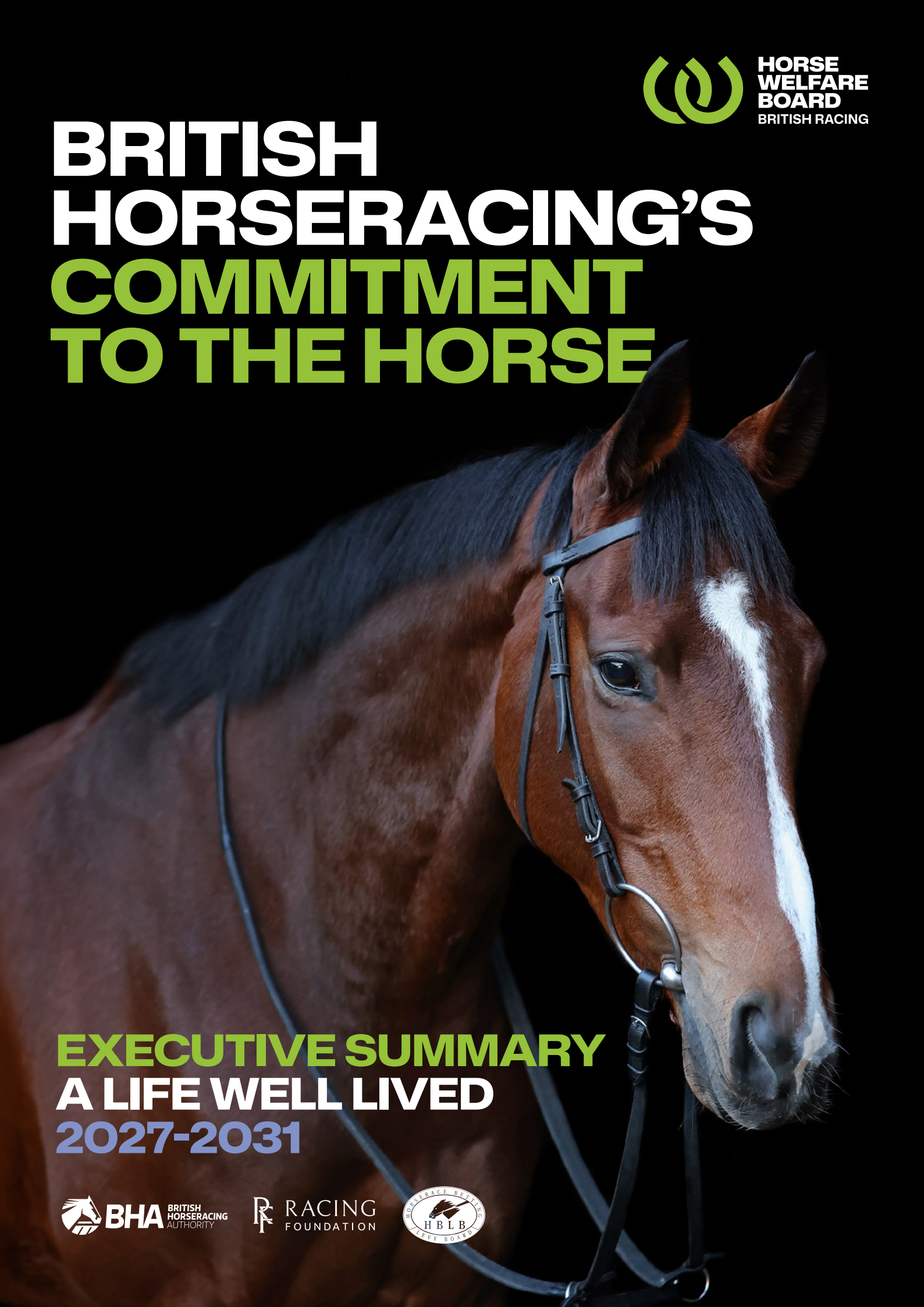
HORSE WELFARE BOARD
BRITISH RACING

BRITISH HORSERACING'S COMMITMENT TO THE HORSE



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
A LIFE WELL LIVED
2027-2031

BHA BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY
RACING FOUNDATION
HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD HBLB

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the sport of racing and its community has taken important steps to strengthen its commitment to ensuring a life well lived for every racehorse.

A welfare strategy published in 2020 has coordinated activity across the sport. Improvements in safety, advances in traceability, clearer communication of welfare standards and enhanced support for horses after racing all reflect meaningful progress and a strong foundation for the future.

The sport has now extended this commitment by publishing the next iteration of this strategy: “A Life Well Lived: British Racing’s Commitment to the Horse 2027 – 2031”.



TO DELIVER WORLD-LEADING STANDARDS OF HORSE WELFARE



OUR VISION

To deliver world-leading standards of horse welfare by placing the welfare and safety of every racehorse at the heart of a thriving sport—guided by science, underpinned by transparency and continuously evolving.

The strategy focuses on four interconnected outcomes, supported by 20 equally important priorities and annual delivery plans with measurable results.

THE STRATEGY

The strategy builds on its previous iteration, allowing racing to build on five years of progress rather than start again.

IT REVOLVES AROUND FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS:



LIFETIME RESPONSIBILITY

Accountability to the Thoroughbred throughout its lifetime.

What we will focus on: Strengthening traceability, closing information gaps, improving support when horses leave racing and move into new careers and developing a blueprint for an entirely digital traceability system .

The difference it will make: Bringing the sport closer to its ambition of 100% lifetime traceability for all horses bred for racing.

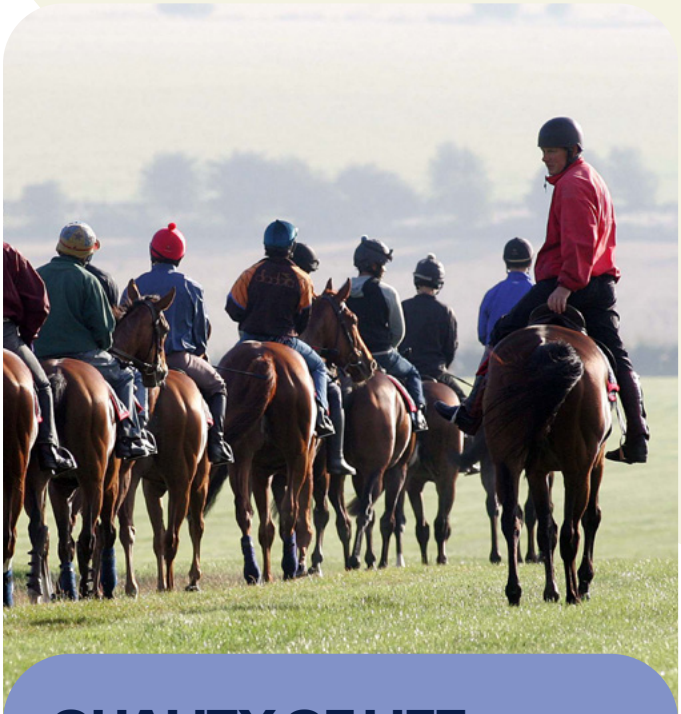


SAFETY

Reduce avoidable fatalities and injuries to racehorses on and off the racecourse.

What we will focus on: Expanding data to support risk modelling across all areas of a horse's life to better identify and reduce risk, applying new and emerging research and technology to support interventions, alongside the provision of best possible training and racing surfaces, and ongoing obstacle improvement and design.

The difference it will make: Practical, targeted interventions will help reduce avoidable injuries and fatalities both on and off the racecourse.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Defining and implementing best practice that supports the whole health of the horse to ensure the best possible quality of life.

What we will focus on: A shifting focus to consider the whole health of the horse, recognising that quality of life depends on positive mental experiences alongside reducing negative outcomes. Improving knowledge and practice around nutrition, behaviour, social contact, environment, training and early-years management.

The difference it will make: Horses bred for racing will experience a better quality of life supported by the latest scientific evidence.



TRUST

Build and sustain trust by delivering on the vision across the sport and communicating progress.

What we will focus on: Communicating more openly and consistently, increasing transparency and strengthening independent oversight of welfare activity and reporting our progress.

The difference it will make: Meaningful progress and collective responsibility will strengthen racing's social licence, enabling the sport to grow and thrive.

PRIORITIES

Within each outcome the sport has identified five core priorities which build on progress already made, alongside new areas of focus. These will be underpinned by annual project plans with measurable results. Each priority carries equal importance for our success.

The four outcomes are interconnected, with priorities often contributing to more than one area. As high-level ambitions, some priorities are intentionally broad and will be refined through the development of annual plans and subsequent reviews to ensure clear actions, measurable progress and meaningful outcomes for horses.

LIFETIME RESPONSIBILITY

Establish accountability and advocate for stronger legislation in traceability.

Continuous improvement of data held for all stages of the Thoroughbred's life.

Strengthen understanding of the lifecycle and outcomes for British racehorses.

Use traceability data to support a horse's first step out of racing and beyond.

Support best outcomes for all former racehorses.

SAFETY

Identification of potential risk factors in collaboration with world- leading experts to improve safety.

Reduce avoidable risk on the racecourse.

Reduce avoidable risk off the racecourse.

Ongoing obstacle design improvements and management for best possible safety.

Connect research, knowledge and practice.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Collecting and analysing enhanced data to improve horses' quality of life and lived experiences.

Industry-wide collaboration to continuously improve horse welfare standards.

Prioritise veterinary research into factors affecting horses' quality of life, from health and injury prevention to recovery and retirement.

Implement projects to support the whole health of the horse.

Safeguard the future of the Thoroughbred athlete by ensuring a robust and resilient breed.

TRUST

Review and strengthen the sport's approach to communicating on horse welfare.

Improve transparency around how racing addresses public concerns and ensure these are reflected in its governance and decision-making.

Reduce welfare concerns as a barrier to engagement.

Engage with external experts to provide independent oversight of actions and accountability.

Further understanding of the whip as an instrument for safety and encouragement.

HOW WE WILL DELIVER

Annual project plans will ensure that delivery will be agile, with clear measurement, regular review and each phase expected to provide tangible value. Strong governance and accountability will ensure responsibilities are clear and progress is measured and reported.

Initiatives will be developed with the industry, engaging stakeholders from inception so that changes are practical, understood and collectively owned. Sustainable funding, better-connected data and appropriate use of technology will support long-term delivery and target investment towards activity that demonstrates measurable benefit for horses.

Clear, accessible communication will show how decisions are made, what progress has been delivered, and enable everyone across British racing to play their part in delivering and championing world-leading welfare



2027: TURNING EVIDENCE INTO ACTION

Improving safety, strengthening lifetime responsibility, and delivering better outcomes for horses.

2027 marks the first year of delivery of British racing's new five-year welfare strategy. Building on A Life Well Lived, we will translate research, evidence, and collaboration into practical improvements, with clear measures of progress across the four strategic outcomes: **Quality of Life, Safety, Lifetime Responsibility and Trust.**

Progress will be monitored against key performance indicators (KPIs) to track delivery, measure impact and assess progress against the strategy's objectives. An annual review will evaluate progress, identify areas for improvement and inform priorities for the year ahead, ensuring the strategy remains responsive to emerging evidence and the evolving needs of the sport.

TWO MAJOR AREAS OF FOCUS:

OUTCOME: LIFETIME RESPONSIBILITY

01 | Strengthening Thoroughbred traceability

Deliver the first phase of an industry-wide traceability solution, connecting horse identity, keeper, and location information through a Digital Traceability Solution and secure data sharing across existing systems. Improve consistent recording across breeding and training to support welfare monitoring, biosecurity and lifetime accountability, laying the foundations for greater visibility through sales, movements, and life beyond racing.

OUTCOME: QUALITY OF LIFE/ SAFETY

02 | Better information. Better decisions

Developing a secure digital system which will allow trainers and veterinary professionals to make better-informed decisions about horse health, welfare and safety. This includes improvements as to how medication histories are recorded and accessed. More consistent, accessible records will support continuity of care and, over time, a stronger understanding of potential welfare risks. A secure, practical digital system will be developed and tested with trainers during 2027, laying the foundations for wider adoption from 2028.

WE WILL TRANSLATE RESEARCH, EVIDENCE, AND COLLABORATION INTO PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS

BUILDING ON ESTABLISHED PROGRAMMES

OUTCOME: SAFETY

03 | Improving ground and going

Build on existing initiatives through independent assessment of the technology used to measure racing surfaces, knowledge-sharing and practical workshops. Strengthen accessible advice and independent trainer support to encourage consistent, evidence-led decisions about racing and training surfaces.

04 | Expanding schooling opportunities

Continue Flat and Jump Schooling Trials, extending Jump opportunities where venues and conditions allow and developing a model for Flat trials. Evaluate participation, safety, and cost to inform sustainable future delivery.

05 | Advancing evidence-led safety improvements

Turn findings from research and existing safety projects into practical measures to reduce avoidable injuries and fatalities. Work with industry experts to identify risks earlier, assess emerging technologies and evaluate interventions so resources focus on measures with the greatest impact.

OUTCOME: QUALITY OF LIFE

06 | Advancing holistic health and wellbeing

Strengthen understanding and application of whole-horse welfare, recognising physical health, mental wellbeing, behaviour and the horse's environment. Build on the Five Domains approach and established wellbeing work to develop practical guidance, training and best practice that help those caring for Thoroughbreds support positive experiences and quality of life before, during and after racing.

OUTCOME: TRUST

07 | Promoting engagement and action on equine safety and welfare

Provide clear, practical information and support that helps participants on the sport engage with and promote good practice and horse welfare initiatives. Further promote transparency by enhancing data capture and sharing. Encourage feedback, share progress openly, and bring people together to improve horse welfare across British racing and beyond.

FURTHER PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY BY ENHANCING DATA CAPTURE AND SHARING



OUR COMMITMENT FOR 2027

Deliver meaningful, measurable progress by embedding horse welfare in everyday decisions and strengthening accountability for Thoroughbreds before, during and after racing.

AN INDUSTRY COMMITTED TO DELIVERING WORLD LEADING HORSE WELFARE

HORSE WELFARE BOARD
BRITISH RACING

BHA BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

RCA

ROA

Jockeys PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

RoR Retraining of Racehorses

NATIONAL TRAINERS FEDERATION
THE VOICE OF BRITAIN'S RACEHORSE TRAINERS

HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD
HBLB

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

LIR Large Independent Racecourses

nars National Association of Racing Staff

RACING FOUNDATION

THE THOROUGHBRED GROUP

arc Racing & Leisure Group

THE JOCKEY CLUB