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ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE THOROUGHBRED THROUGHOUT ITS LIFETIME



Racing has a collective responsibility to our equine athlete throughout its lifetime. As an industry we must have the fullest possible traceability for Thoroughbreds that have been bred for racing. The 2023 Thoroughbred Census, and the TBA's foal crop and broodmare analysis have informed our knowledge of the whereabouts of racehorses, before and after their time in racing.

Building on A Life Well Lived 2020-2025, this strategy sets out a framework for action to enhance the welfare of Thoroughbreds throughout their entire lifecycle, not solely during their racing careers. It addresses welfare considerations before, during and after racing.

We will continue to reduce identified data gaps to effectively support racehorses across their lifetime. As well as advocating for legislation to close equine traceability gaps, we will work to establish a robust and readily available traceability system using data and technological advances.

Thoroughbreds often pursue diverse careers after racing, making collaboration vital to their lifelong welfare. We will continue working with the industry's aftercare partner, RoR, to improve support, education and traceability for former racehorses, helping ensure a good quality of life beyond racing. This commitment also extends across British equestrian disciplines and international partners, including International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR).

PROGRESS TO DATE

SHARED INTELLIGENCE
Cross-industry partnership established to obtain traceability data from other equine disciplines.

FOAL CROP ANALYSIS
2018 and 2019 foal crop analysis to identify and respond to traceability data gaps during the first six years of British-born Thoroughbreds.

BROODMARE TRACKING
Broodmare analysis to assess their whereabouts over the past ten years.

CLOSING THE GAPS
Working relationships established with councils, government agencies, stakeholders and equestrian bodies to close identified gaps in traceability.

EQUINE IDENTITY
Continuous lobbying to government for mandatory digital equine ID and an improved central equine database.

PASSPORT AMNESTY
Partnered with Weatherbys on a six-month passport amnesty to drive compliance.

THOROUGHBRED CENSUS
The sport's first ever Thoroughbred Census completed to gather intelligence on racehorses that have left the sport.

HEROS PARTNERSHIP
RoR Retraining Assessment Programme established with HEROS providing specialist support for horses retiring from racing.

LIFE AFTER RACING
Established the first step out of racing as a strategic priority, leading to a data-sharing agreement between the BHA and RoR to allow follow-up surveys to a Thoroughbred's new owner when it takes its first step out of racing.

WIDENING OF ROR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Widening of eligibility criteria to support all horses bred for racing in Britain.

ROR STRATEGY
RoR published three-year industry endorsed aftercare strategy 2024-2026.

INCREASED INDUSTRY FUNDING
Industry funding including owners, breeders, racecourses and sales companies for RoR secured.

PRIORITIES

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE THOROUGHBRED THROUGHOUT ITS LIFETIME

ESTABLISH ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADVOCATE FOR STRONGER LEGISLATION IN TRACEABILITY

- → Define industry and stakeholder accountability and ensure timely delivery of actions to address traceability gaps.
- → Continue to advocate for the necessary legislation to close traceability gaps as a priority for the UK Government.
- → Work towards an industry solution that has potential to inform future legislation.
- → Establish and maintain accurate and readily available traceability data between Britain and Ireland.
- → Establish and grow data streams with other international jurisdictions to enhance global traceability of Thoroughbreds.
- → Continue to advocate for an international commitment to traceability across equestrianism.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF DATA HELD FOR ALL STAGES OF THE THOROUGHBRED'S LIFE

- → Continuous enrichment and provision of clean, verified data for all stages of the Thoroughbred's life to be held centrally and analysed by BHA Welfare Data Unit.
- → Improve traceability at the point of sale and increase accuracy of data streams currently held.
- → Establish data sharing agreements with identified equestrian disciplines that Thoroughbreds are represented within, including eventing, showjumping, dressage and polo.
- → Improve compliance with mandatory change of ownership processes for Thoroughbreds across their lifetime in collaboration with stakeholders, councils and government agencies.
- → Ensure progress within Quality of Life is reflected to support Thoroughbreds across their lifetime through collaboration with RoR.

STRENGTHEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIFECYCLE AND OUTCOMES FOR BRITISH RACEHORSES

- → Continue to analyse the outcomes for British-bred foals and British broodmares to better understand the pathways taken by racehorses from birth to death.
- → Continue to use insight from past projects including Thoroughbred Census and 2018/19 foal crop analyses to close identified gaps.
- → Evaluate effectiveness of previous traceability actions taken in improving our knowledge on the whereabouts of horses.
- \+ Undertake a follow-up Thoroughbred Census at a stage when progress can be measured and evaluated.

KEY: → Ongoing workstream + New workstream

USE TRACEABILITY DATA TO SUPPORT A HORSE'S STEP OUT OF RACING AND BEYOND

+ The industry endorsed aftercare strategy, owned and led by Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), highlights traceability as one of the central pillars of RoR's activity. Collaboration between the BHA, HWB and RoR work will improve centrally held data on the whereabouts of the Thoroughbred at its first step out of racing and beyond.

+ Use improved welfare and early-years data to support aftercare placement and retraining suitability.

SUPPORT BEST OUTCOMES FOR ALL FORMER RACEHORSES

In 2021 the HWB conducted a review of aftercare funding in British racing. As an outcome of this review RoR was confirmed as British racing's official aftercare partner, dedicated to ensuring that every horse bred to race is visible, valued and cared for beyond racing. With enhanced funding committed by the sport, alongside charitable donations, RoR works in collaboration with British racing to deliver its strategic priorities and outcomes for aftercare.

Every racehorse deserves a future in which they are visible, valued and cared for beyond racing

Visibility, traceability and connectivity

Strengthening traceability, registration, data-sharing and engagement across all stakeholder groups, so more former racehorses are known to RoR and connected to appropriate support.

Welfare, education and lifelong support

Helping former racehorses make successful transitions out of racing and support owners throughout the horse's life, reducing preventable welfare issues and the need for intervention.

Participation, demand and public confidence

Growing demand for former racehorses, and to ensure former racehorses are visible, valued and celebrated in all aspects of life after racing.

ENABLING PILLAR

Funding impact and organisational sustainability

Securing the funding, systems and organisational resilience needed to deliver our strategic goals and demonstrate impact.

For more information on RoR's strategic priorities and delivery of outcomes:
RoR Strategy 2027–2031