BRITISH RACING'S COMMITMENT TO THE RACEHORSE

Contents

Purpose 2

Preamble 2

Principles 3

Appendix 4



PURPOSE

British Racing's Commitment to the Racehorse establishes a set of principles and values aimed at ensuring every horse bred for racing is provided with a good life, at every stage, with a commitment towards continuous improvements in health, safety and welfare.

Everyone who is responsible for, cares for, owns or interacts with a horse at any stage of their life is expected to uphold these principles and values.

PREAMBLE

The British horseracing industry recognises that it is a privilege to involve horses in racing and values every horse bred for the sport. The industry aims to provide all of its horses with the best quality of life at all times and stages of life. Everyone in racing has a duty to prioritise the horse's mental and physical health, safety and overall wellbeing at all times throughout their lives.

Racehorses are firstly protected in law. The Rules of Racing provide additional standards that everyone involved in the sport must adhere to which exceed the requirements of the law. Both the law and the Rules provide for sanctions when they are breached. The expectation of the Commitment is that those responsible for racehorses provide them with care that further exceeds both the laws and the Rules throughout their lives.

The intention of the Commitment is not to be an addendum to laws or to the Rules, but to set expectations and guide behaviours and choices made by those responsible for racehorses with the aim that they have a good life from birth to death.



PRINCIPLES

Everyone who is responsible in any way for horses bred for racing at any stage of their lives is committed to:

1. Prioritising the health, safety and welfare of all racehorses at every stage of their lives and in all activities.

2. Handling and treating racehorses with care, empathy and respect, with consideration for their stages of development and education, how they learn and their individual capacity for exercise.

3. Providing racehorses with a suitable and safe environment that provides for all physiological and behavioural requirements appropriate to their age and development.

4. Feeding racehorses with a balanced diet that meets the nutritional requirements necessary to support the developmental and physical demands at all the different stages of their lives.

5. Ensuring that the health of all racehorses is paramount, with prompt and appropriate veterinary treatment when required, to be attended to regularly, for example for farriery and dentistry, and receive regular vaccinations as necessary.

6. Preparing racehorses for racing with consideration for each individual's capacity and capability, to optimise their ability to learn and to train for the demands of racing, while safeguarding their potential for future equestrian careers and a good quality of post-racing career life.

7. Enabling racehorses to freely express normal equine physical and social behaviours with consideration given and opportunities provided to enhance their mental state.

8. Endeavouring to keep their knowledge of evolving practices and changing societal expectations up to date in order to enhance the lives of the racehorses under their care.

9. Upholding their duty of care to each horse with consideration that the next owner or keeper is able to similarly uphold this Commitment as the responsibility for them passes through each stage of their lives.

10. Ensuring that when necessary, euthanasia is carried out in accordance with the industry's euthanasia guidelines.

APPENDIX

There exists a number of frameworks and models by which all horse welfare is assessed and governed, not specifically for racehorses. British Racing's Commitment to the Racehorse embraces all these concepts, with the ambition to exceed them.

This includes but is not restricted to:

- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- BHA Rules of Racing, Section D – Horse Welfare and Management
- Various Codes of Practice and Guidelines
  - Thoroughbred Breeders Association and International Thoroughbred Breeders Federation
  - International Federation of Horseracing Authorities – various codes
  - Retraining of Racehorses
- The 5 Domains, covering
  - Nutrition
  - Environment
  - Health
  - Behavioural Interactions
  - And how these 4 all interact with and influence the horse's Mental State
- The 3 Fs
  - Friends
  - Forage
  - Freedom
- The British Equestrian Charter for the horse, encompassing
  - Empathy
  - Care
  - Respect
  - Consideration
  - Ethics
  - Learning

