



DEATHWATCH REPORT 2018

Prepared by the
Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses



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ABOUT

Deathwatch Report 2018 is the fifth annual report that summarises all ontrack deaths of racehorses around Australia over the past 12 months.

Research and production is by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses. This report was initiated because the racing industry does not collate and publish specific information relating to on course horse deaths themselves.

From the period 1st of August 2017 to 31st of July 2018 (the 'racing year'), we have monitored every race Australia-wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses on Australian racetracks.



The 2017-2018 death toll

The toll for this racing year is 119 horses - 16 less than last year



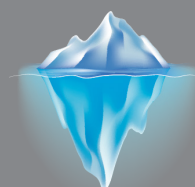
In addition to these deaths

Many thousands of horses die every year from racing related injuries off the track in training or they are killed prematurely when they are no longer commercially viable.



The percentages

The 119 horses that died on track during this period represent 0.34% of the approx 35,000 horses racing each year.



It's the tip of the iceberg

Many thousands more disappear or cycle out of the racing industry, also known as wastage.

SOURCES OF DATA + KEY FINDINGS

Data for the Deathwatch Report has been gathered from each state's official stewards reports, which are published on the individual state websites, as well as the Australian Racing Fact Book and various media outlets.

It is important to note that most states do not report deaths while training or in trials. From this, it can be drawn that if these deaths were disclosed, the total number of deaths would be far higher.

**119 RACEHORSES
WERE KILLED
ON TRACK (OR
SOON AFTER
RACING): MOST
COMMONLY FOR
CATASTROPHIC
FRONT LIMB
INJURY**

**ON AVERAGE
ONE HORSE
WILL DIE ON AN
AUSTRALIAN
RACE TRACK
EVERY 3 DAYS**

**16 HORSES
COLLAPSED AND
DIED**

**11 HORSES DIED
FROM CARDIAC
CAUSES**

**4 HORSES DIED
FROM BLEEDS**

**THE STATE WITH
THE HIGHEST
RECORDED
DEATHS WAS
NSW (52)
FOLLOWED BY
VIC (24) AND
QLD (24)**

**46 OF THE
HORSES THAT
WERE KILLED
HAD BEEN
RACED AS A
2-YEAR-OLD**

**7 OF THE HORSES
WERE 2 WHEN
THEY DIED**

**THE MOST
LETHAL TRACK
IN AUSTRALIA
WAS WARWICK
FARM IN NEW
SOUTH WALES
WITH 9 DEATHS**



SPECIFIC INJURIES INCLUDE BROKEN NECK, BROKEN PELVIS, RUPTURED AORTA, BROKEN HUMERUS.

OTHERS ARE SIMPLY CATEGORISED AS 'SERIOUS RACING INJURY' WITH LITTLE TO NO DETAILS DISCLOSED.

CAUSES OF DEATH + COMPARISON TO OTHER YEARS

Of the 119 horses that died on track, by far the most common cause of death was catastrophic front limb injury with 56 occurrences. Catastrophic hind limb injury was the second leading cause of death with 17 occurrences. Other causes of death were massive bleeds and cardiac failure.

COMPARISON TO OTHER YEARS

In 2014, there were 125 deaths. This is one death every 2.9 days.

In 2015, there were 116 deaths. This is one death every 3 days.

In 2016, there were 132 deaths. This is one death every 2.8 days.

In 2017, there were 137 deaths. This is one death every 2.6 days.



STILL ACTIVE + 'UNNAMED'

At the time of writing this report, some of the horses named are still listed as 'active' on Racing Australia - some of whom have been dead for almost a year. Racing Australia must be more proactive and regularly update horses as 'deceased' to be more transparent and not to mislead the public.

'ACTIVE' (AS AT 1 AUGUST 2018)

Scotsdale	Sidilly	Josanema
Charson's Gift	Chief Pontiac	Musgrey Hill
Grateful Hussy	Bernie Boy	Bregenz
Seektowin	Springbok Flyer	
Billy Can	About The Journey	
Mr Mcbu	Stickemup	
Oskastar	Shakhan	
Something To Share		

NOTE: THESE HORSES WERE CHECKED FOR THE FINAL TIME AT 1 AUGUST 2018; AND COULD SINCE HAVE BEEN UPDATED TO REFLECT THEIR TRUE STATUS.

'UNNAMED' HORSES

Some of the horses in this report are listed as 'unnamed'. These are horses who have usually died during trackwork or training before being given an official racing name.

The only state to disclose such deaths is New South Wales. The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses has been calling on other states to include trackwork, trial and training deaths in their stewards reports to provide a more accurate picture of racing deaths across the country.

Warwick Farm: Tuesday 19 December 2017

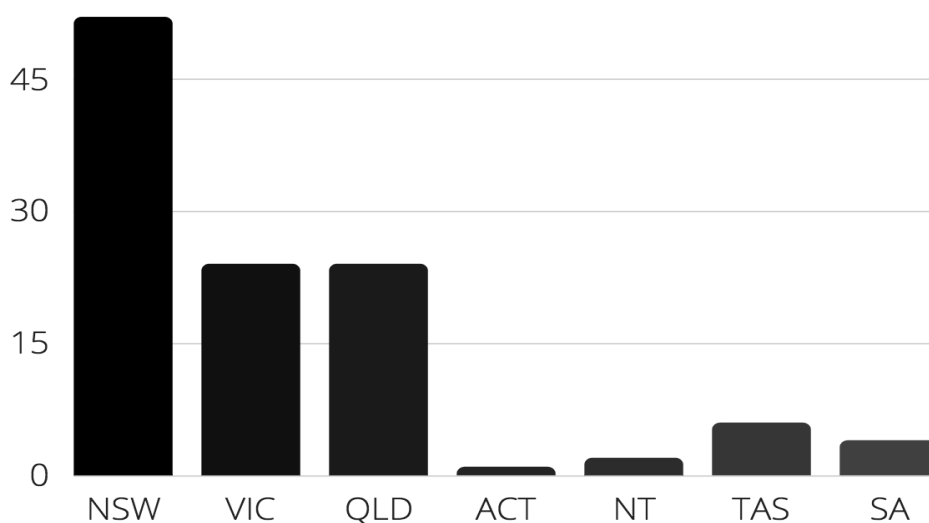
Stewards today inquired into the circumstances surrounding the catastrophic breakdown and subsequent euthanasia of an unnamed colt (Sizzling x Aliena) at Warwick Farm trackwork on Tuesday 19 December 2017. Evidence was taken from trainer M Newnham, who provided his veterinary and treatment records for the colt. A necropsy report from the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Camden was also tendered into evidence which confirmed at post-mortem a severe, open, comminuted fracture of the near fore third metacarpal (cannon) bone. Mr Newnham stated that the colt, which had been in work for approximately 3 weeks, had not had any issues and accordingly, had not required any veterinary treatment. After considering all the evidence, Stewards were satisfied that there was no pre-existing condition which led or contributed to the colt breaking down, the inquiry was adjourned pending the results of a post-mortem urine sample that was obtained from the colt.

NEWCASTLE TRACKWORK: Wednesday 30 August 2017

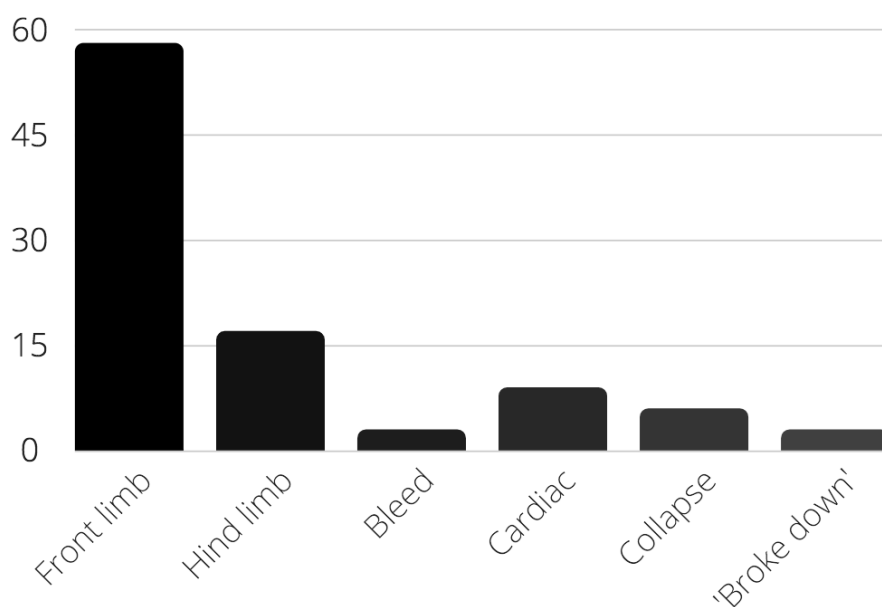
Unnamed 2yo colt – the colt by *Declaration Of War* out of *Piccadilly Circus* suffered a fracture to the off fore cannon and was euthanased on humane grounds. Stewards today concluded their inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the injury to the colt. Veterinary and treatment records provided showed no abnormalities and stable representative S Perry was told that as there was no evidence to suggest there was any pre-existing condition that could have caused or contributed to the injury, the matter was concluded.

STATISTICS

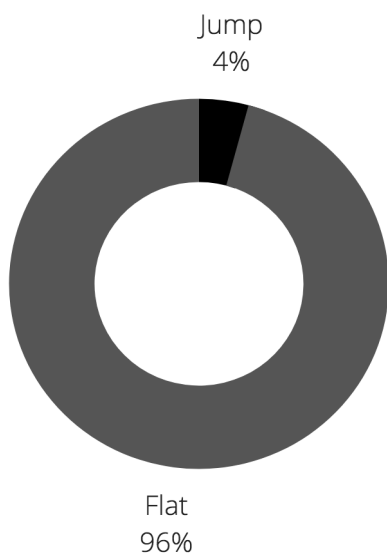
DEATHS BY STATE



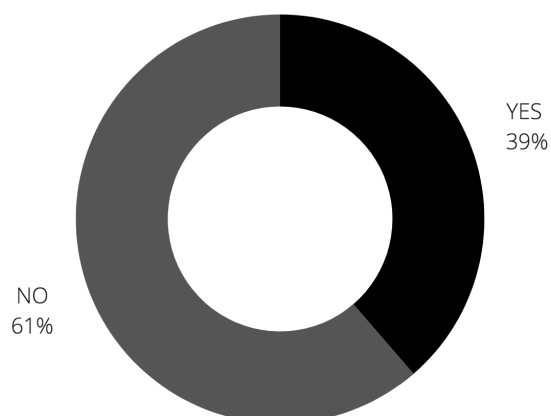
DEATHS BY CAUSE



DEATHS BY DISCIPLINE



RACED AS A 2-YEAR-OLD



*It should be noted that the vast majority of races run in Australia are flat races, with jumps racing only being run on a limited season in Victoria and South Australia. Jumps racing remains 19 times more dangerous than flat racing.

*Many of the horses who did not race as a 2-year-old were in fact raced as a 3-year-old, which is still an under-developed stage.

CASE STUDIES



JOSANEMA

Never ran a race

Josanema was a 4-year-old racehorse who never ran a race. He died in trackwork at Newcastle racecourse on the 8th of November 2017.

Just one week later on the 15th of November 2017, 4-year-old gelding Somashini also died in trackwork at Warwick Farm. He never ran a race either, and died of 'catastrophic fractures of the neck and skull'.

If these deaths had have occurred in any other state, we'd never know about them. Only New South Wales disclose trackwork and trial deaths.



SURVIVED

The ironically named

Survived didn't survive the racing industry. He died of a catastrophic hind limb injury.

The 8-year-old gelding 'broke down' at Morphettville in South Australia and fractured his near hind cannon bone.

He joins other ironically named horses like 'Grave Digger' and 'He's Tough Enough' who also died this racing year.



CASE STUDIES



LANDON

Raced as a baby

There is growing concern about the racing of underdeveloped horses in 2-year-old racing and training.

Landon's story is yet another example of why it is simply irresponsible for the industry to allow horses to be raced as babies.

The 2-year-old gelding was training in trackwork at Randwick on 28 April 2018 and fractured his humerus.



PRIVATE IDAHO

Bled to death

Bleeds are not an uncommon occurrence in horse racing. Sadly, some bleeds are so serious that it kills horses right there on the track. This is what happened to Private Idaho.

The 5-year-old gelding started his racing career as a 2-year-old, and 3 only years later, fell and was unable to rise. It was later discovered he died of a bleed.

He joins other horses who suffer the same fate, like 9-year-old jumps horse, About The Journey, who tumbled over a jump in a Victorian race and ruptured an aorta.



REGAL MONARCH

Melbourne Cup Day tragedy

MELBOURNE CUP TENDS TO BE THE ONLY TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN THE AVERAGE PERSON HEARS ABOUT RACING DEATHS. THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN DISASTROUS FOR THE RACING INDUSTRY, WITH MULTIPLE DEATHS: VEREMA IN 2013, ADMIRE RAKTI AND ARALDO IN 2014 AND RED CADEAUX IN 2015.

Why they had to kill broken down Melbourne Cup horse Verema

SUPERRACING

Melbourne Cup 2014: Admire Rakti and Araldo die following the Melbourne Cup

Red Cadeaux euthanased due to complications from Melbourne Cup injury

THE 2017 MELBOURNE CUP DAY WAS NO EXCEPTION.

Regal Monarch broke a leg in race 4 at Flemington on Melbourne Cup Day and was floated from Flemington to be euthanised at a veterinary clinic. In a desperate attempt to save face after years of catastrophe and growing public concern about horse racing's social licence, the industry waited until late that night to officially confirm his death, despite staff at Regal Monarch's stable confirming he was dead before the Melbourne Cup was even run.



Regal Monarch Dies After Horror Melbourne Cup Day Fall At Flemington

The horse was euthanised on Tuesday evening.

MANY SPECULATED THAT THE RACING INDUSTRY ONLY DID THIS TO AVOID BAD PUBLICITY AND INTENTIONALLY WAITED UNTIL ALL MAJOR NEWS STORIES ABOUT THE DAY WERE AIRED THAT EVENING.

RACING AUSTRALIA WERE CONTACTED ON MULTIPLE OCCASSIONS TO CLARIFY TIMING. THEY NEVER RESPONDED.

REST IN PEACE

ELEMENT OF CHANCE
TRUE PASSION
PROSPECT ROAD
ALABASTA BAY
BANCA DREAM
UNNAMED 2YO
CESTOS
OLSSON
SHORT SHIFT
SHOCKWAVE MISS
THE PACIFIER
SCOTSDALE
MISHANI GLADIATOR
WESTBROOK
SIDILLY
BANNATYNE
NATADOLA
STAYS ALL DAY
MINNIE DOWNS
NAUGHTY THOUGHTS
AND JUBILATIONS
STEERING
KYRGIOS
REGAL MONARCH
BAEMAX
RICH N HOLY
LUCKY SHOW
JOSANEMA
MUKADDAMAH SON
SOMASHINI
RAGGLE VARR
CHIPS A PLENTY
CHARSON'S GIFT
RUSTIC MELODY
HULEO
DANCHAI
CHIEF PONTIAC
DAGGA BOY
GLISTERING
TILLATION

UNNAMED COLT
FOUDRE BOULON
REMEMBER BERLIN
PURRARI
UKELELE TOM
ANXPENSE
RESCIND
LEPA BRENA
ORIENT LINE
WESTERN PEARL
MUSGREY HILL
LOMAZZO
COSGROVE
BRING BACK TIME
SUEDAMA SUN
DON'T DENY US
ASSERTIVE LOVE
JUNCTION ROAD
TALMET
GRATEFUL HISSY
TRINKET CHICK
THE BIG BOSS
BERNIE BOY
KNIGHT COMMANDER
GRAVE DIGGER
NILETTE
IT'S A LOTTERY
BILL 'N' EVE
WONDER BOLT
SEASONAL
STAR ORDER
BELGROVE
CRIMSON'S ROCKET
SIR STATHAM
DAPKOS
GIRL SUNDAY
VANILOQUIO
FAITHFULL
LAKSHME
SEPTAMORE

GARFUNKEL
HOLD MY BEER
LANI GIRL
URBAN CHARM
LIBELLE
KUROSHIO EXPRESS
SUDDENLY SPICE
MIDNIGHT LIAISON
BREGENZ
RIZIZ
MORE THAN A HOLIDAY
MANSOURA
SEEKTOWIN
SPRINGBOK FLYER
IT'S RELATIVE
PRIVATE IDAHO
BILLY CAN
ABOUT THE JOURNEY
MR MCBU
STICKEMUP
HE'S TOUGH ENOUGH
SURVIVED
SOMETHING TO SHARE
UISCE BEATHA
OSKASTAR
SHAKHAN
MUJADALE
NOW AND ZEN
THE WORLD OVER
CLASSY AL
PENNY FOR A POUND
LANDON
JONDY SHAMALA
MACKINGTOSH
DASSAULT MIRAGE
TRIKSING
NZINGHA
NEAR QUEUE
GUARDS

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MANY HORSES THAT HAVE SUSTAINED INJURIES DURING A RACE AND WERE TAKEN OFF THE TRACK TO AVOID THEIR DEATHS BEING RECORDED IN THE STEWARDS REPORTS AND HENCE BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

THANK YOU

FOR READING

This report was written by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

If you have any more information to share, get in touch. We will never divulge sources.

horseracingkills.com