

NZTR THOROUGHBRED WELFARE PROGRAMME

MARTIN BURNS – GM WELFARE & SUSTAINABILITY
NZTR AGM NOVEMBER 2020

NEW ZEALAND
THOROUGHBRED **RACING**



PUREI HŌIHO NĀTI O AOTEAROA

NZTR THOROUGHBRED WELFARE PROGRAMME

- Thoroughbred Welfare is inherently part of “what we do” in breeding and racing.
- In recent years, new initiatives have been developed to assist further.
- There is more that can be done with practical effect.
- There is more that can be done to confirm the reality of good Thoroughbred welfare through data gathering and reporting (e.g. traceability; injuries).
- There is much more that can be done to communicate ‘good welfare’ to participants and the public.



Source: British Horseracing Authority (Feb-20)

THOROUGHBRED WELFARE – BROAD AIMS

Life Stage	Broad Practical Aims
Pre-racing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fewer non-exported horses that fail to commence training and racing – and clear traceability if they don't progress.
During racing career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Horses (on average) race longer, more starts – More horses retire free of injury – Retiring horses are behaviourally sound – 'Blinkers off' behind the scenes experience & communications (Budget \$20k)
Post racing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Robust breeding industry for commercial bloodstock – Skilled and successful transition for geldings and non-commercial mares – Strong demand for ex racehorses as sport horses or for recreational riding – Traceability of initial non-racing owner, and ideally subsequent owners – Owners well educated and capable in care and handling – Safety net for horses in need – Humane end of life

Supported by: robust evidence and data; research; education and training; targeted programmes and funding; and high-impact communications.

Alignment to efforts of overseas racing jurisdictions.

ADDED FOCUS – 2021 AND BEYOND (CONT.)

Life Stage	Broad Practical Aims	Annualised Budget
Post racing	Education of owners of ex-racehorses Horse and rider clinics Safety net for horses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Horses found in neglect by SPCA or MPI – Horse ambulance operational costs (NZTR share) Humane end of life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring good decision making and consideration of timely euthanasia for old, ill or injured. – Carcass disposal 	} } \$165k

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

Thoroughbred Welfare Forum

- Published Thoroughbred Welfare Plan
- Data and analysis – we need to ‘own’ the facts – and be trusted by the public and media

So much communication!

- ‘Day in the life’ stories of horses in racing and breeding
- ‘case in point’ stories of ex-racehorse second careers
- Education targeted at ex-racehorse owners
- Incentives for good ‘user driven’ social media comms
- Video content

Its time to be **loud and proud** of how we care for our horses, and how they live a good life.

Budget circa \$50k in 2021/22



ACCOUNTABILITY TO INDUSTRY IS ALSO KEY!

- Plans will be made, communicated, and changed as we learn more about what works best. This will be done under the oversight of the Integrity and Welfare Committee and the NZTR Board.
- NZTR will provide twice-yearly updates to industry sector groups and participants generally.
- NZTR is conscious that the funding directed to Thoroughbred welfare is important to our collective guardianship of our horses, and the reputation of our industry.



SUCCESS LOOK LIKE...

By the end of the 2021/22 season, the various initiatives will enable:

- Increased demand for off-the-track Thoroughbreds
- Trainers and owners to be supported if needed by Acknowledged Retrainers to facilitate Thoroughbreds transition from track to 'second careers'
- NZTR to be fully transparent in communicating welfare matters, and responsive to concern
- NZTR to 'own the narrative' on Thoroughbred welfare, and is trusted by media and public
- NZTR to lead the way in sharing equine science and husbandry knowledge to participants, and to owners of retired Thoroughbreds
- All of us to be proud of what we do, and attracting more people to industry careers, or racehorse ownership





CONTACT

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