

*A Beginners Guide To
New Zealand Thoroughbred
Racing & Racehorse Ownership*



BEGINNERS

GUIDE

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The History of Thoroughbred Racing in New Zealand.

A quick run down

THE ORIGINS OF THOROUGHBREDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Introduced to New Zealand during colonisation, nearly all of today's thoroughbred racehorses can be traced back to one of three 'founding father' stallions – the Darley Arabian, the Godolphin Arabian and the Byerley Turk.

These Arabian horses were imported into England between the late 17th and early 18th century and mated with native, heavier breeds.

The resulting offspring – the perfect mix of Arabian speed and native stamina – were the very first 'thoroughbred' horses.

The history of thoroughbred breeding in New Zealand dates back to the 19th century, when people such as Henry Redwood, known as the 'Father of the New Zealand Turf' bred, raced and imported thoroughbreds.

These New Zealand thoroughbreds would begin the proud Kiwi tradition of success in Australasia's major races.

OUR CHAMPIONS

New Zealand has a rich history of breeding some of the best thoroughbred racehorses in the world. Growing up on lush pastures in a temperate climate with some of the best horsemen in the business taking care of them, New Zealand bred horses have much success around the globe and in particular Australia.

Some of our elite champions include Phar Lap, Bonecrusher, Horlicks, Rough Habit, Sunline, Ocean Park, Tulloch, So You Think, Dundee and more recently, Mongolian Khan, Turn Me Loose, Bonneval, Melody Belle, Imperatriz, Probabeel and Mr Brightside.

THE RACING INDUSTRY & STRUCTURE OF NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING

Wherever you are in New Zealand, a racecourse isn't far away. Racedays run all year round, about 4-5 times a week. The 'racing season' begins on 1 August each year.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc (NZTR) is the governing body of the thoroughbred code and is responsible for administering and promoting the sport of thoroughbred racing.

Did you know...
Racehorses in the Southern Hemisphere officially celebrate their birthday on 1 August each year which is also the date marking the start of the new racing season.

Racehorse Ownership. Getting Started

Racehorse ownership is a journey to a new and exciting lifestyle. A little knowledge will help you to make the decisions required to get the most out of your ride. This guide is designed to do just that; to let you know what to expect as you take your first steps towards becoming the proud owner of a racehorse.

HOW TO BUY YOUR FIRST HORSE

To become an owner, it goes without saying that you have to buy a horse, or at least part of one. This can be a daunting task for anyone without experience, but it doesn't have to be.

Step 1:

CONSIDER YOUR BUDGET

Before you start looking at purchasing a share in a racehorse, it is important to consider how much money you want to spend initially and how much you can afford on a monthly basis.

Step 2:

OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

The great thing about racehorse ownership is that there are so many different options available. You can tailor it to your desired level of involvement and your budget.

INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP

Individual ownership is exactly that. The horse has only one owner who covers all costs, makes decisions and gets to enjoy all the rewards. This type of ownership obviously involves the highest individual cost, but also means you call the shots.

PARTNERSHIPS OR SYNDICATES

Partnerships and syndicates are the most common form of ownership. They provide owners with many advantages, such as the sharing of costs - and the fun. They can be formed between anyone - family, friends, work mates, sports teams, whoever. If the partnership/syndicate is not managed by an authorised syndicator or trainer, one of the owners must be nominated as the racing manager. The racing manager is financially responsible for ensuring accounts are paid and liaising directly with the trainer to ensure the owners are kept up to speed with what's happening with the horse.

LEGAL ENTITY

(TRUST OR COMPANY) OWNERSHIP

Trust or company ownership is also a possibility in New Zealand. NZTR must approve the trust or company for racing horses. Essentially, shareholders in the trust or company are the owners of the asset, in this case, the horse or horses.

Did you know...

Talented Karaka graduate **Sharp 'N' Smart** (NZ) (Redwood) demonstrated his immense value during Australia's 2022 Spring Racing Carnival. The Group One Spring Champion Stakes winner and New Zealand Derby winner was purchased for \$55,000 by Rogerson Bloodstock from Westbury Stud's Karaka 2021 draft. He has now won nearly \$3.2 million, more than 58 times his initial purchase price.

(As at December 2024)

LEASING

In New Zealand, you don't have to purchase a horse to enjoy the fun of ownership. Some first time entrants to the industry choose to lease rather than buy a horse. Leasing provides the opportunity for people individually, or with partnerships or syndicates, to race a horse without having to raise the capital required to purchase the horse to begin with. Essentially, the horse belongs to the lessee (person or partnership or syndicate) for racing purposes. The lessee is responsible for the costs associated with the care and racing of the horse and collects the rewards from racing. A right of purchase can be included in a lease and it's common for the lessor to be entitled to a percentage of prize money won. Leases are subject to the registration of a formal lease agreement that's held by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing. The terms of each lease can vary.

Step 3:

FIND AN EXPERT

There are ownership opportunities to fit all budgets,

but unless you know what you're looking for, it's best to ask for advice from a trainer, bloodstock agent or authorised syndicator, before you put your hand up in the auction ring.

TRAINER

Most trainers have expertise in selecting young horses and rarely charge for assisting you in the selection and purchase of your animal. However they do expect to train the horse for you in return. They may also have knowledge of horses available for sale or lease, or they may have other clients with whom you could share ownership. A list of trainers can be found at: nztrainers.co.nz/ownership-info/trainers-directory.

BLOODSTOCK AGENT

A bloodstock agent's primary job is to find suitable horses to fit within the purchaser's brief and budget. Prior to the sale, they will have researched the full list of horses available, in order to provide you with a

short list of those which suit your needs. However, they will charge either a negotiated fee or a percentage of the purchase price. A list of bloodstock agents can be found at bafnz.com.

AUTHORISED SYNDICATOR

Similar to a bloodstock agent, an authorised syndicator is a recognised expert who can assist you with all facets of purchasing a racehorse or owning a share in a racehorse. Authorised syndicators will select an appropriate trainer, advertise and form a syndicate of

members, help you to purchase a share in a horse, then communicate with you and ensure your horse is appropriately managed on a day to day basis. They're bound by a set of rules laid down by NZTR, and are required to complete a comprehensive disclosure process before syndicating any horses. This ensures that purchasing a racehorse with an authorised syndicator is a very transparent process. Authorised syndicators will quite often charge a monthly management fee. A list of authorised syndicators and their contact details can be found at: loveracing.nz/authorised-syndicators.

Step 4:

DECIDE HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUY YOUR HORSE

There are primarily three options when it comes to deciding where to purchase a horse from; at an auction, through a private sale or by purchasing a share from a partnership or syndicate that's already formed.

Buying at Auction

YEARLING SALES

If you're fascinated by the exhilarating thrill of racing, then New Zealand Bloodstock's National Yearling Sales Series is the perfect place to start looking for your next racetrack star. Held during January, the sale consists of New Zealand's most premier thoroughbred stock, born and raised at New Zealand's very best thoroughbred nurseries and selected carefully for the sale by a team of expert NZB bloodstock agents. From a foal crop of around 3500 youngsters born each year, around 1300 yearlings go under the hammer at NZB's world renowned Karaka Sales Centre annually. Given the variety of stock, prices can vary from as low as \$2,000 to a current New Zealand yearling sales record of 3.6 million, set in 2020 by eventual Stallion Don Eduardo. This price has only been beaten by the daughter of superstar Winx, who sold for \$10 million at the 2024 Inglis Easter

Sale in Sydney. The filly by Piero established a new World Record that will be hard to top.

Online sales are also proving popular across Australasia with 2024 New Zealand Horse of the Year Imperatriz becoming the highest priced broodmare to ever be sold in the Southern Hemisphere when selling for \$6.6 million, all without leaving the comfort of her Waikato paddock.

READY TO RUN SALE

Around November, New Zealand Bloodstock holds its very own Ready to Run Sale of Two-Year-Olds, which happens to be the number one sale of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. The aim of this sale is to give buyers a more finished product, selling two-year-old horses that have been broken in and are ready to run in races. Each two-year-old has the opportunity to 'Breeze Up' prior to the sale. The Breeze Ups are a vital part of the two-year-old sale process, with all horses having the opportunity to gallop down the home straight of a racecourse, with the final 200 metres of their gallop filmed and timed. Videos of these gallops are then made available on the NZB website for potential buyers to watch, which helps them in their decision making process as they can see how the horses gallop prior to purchasing. The advantage of this sale format is that your horse has already been broken in and you can see the horse's potential under the saddle before purchasing.

Did you know...

Horses bred or conceived in NZ, as well as purchased from any NZ Sale are eligible for the Southern Hemisphere's richest race for 3YOs, The NZB Kiwi (1500m). The race will be run for \$3.5 million in its inaugural year and will increase to \$4.5 million in the following years, with more than \$1 million in bonuses up for grabs annually.



Private Sale

A horse can be bought privately from its current owner, usually through an advertisement or word of mouth. It's important that the horse passes a veterinary examination for racing purposes before a sale is completed.

Purchasing a share in a pre-established partnership or syndicate

Many trainers, authorised syndicators or bloodstock agents will have shares available in partnerships or syndicates. Information about these partnerships or syndicates can usually be found on the trainers, authorised syndicators or bloodstock agent's websites.

Online Auction

Horses can also be purchased through gavelhouse.com. The website serves as an online platform to exchange bloodstock, through their regular, fortnightly auctions. Similar to other online auction sites, racehorses of any age can be purchased online at the click of a button from the various breeders, stud farms, or training stables situated throughout New Zealand.

Step 5:

HOW TO READ A PEDIGREE

Catalogue Lot number, horses are auctioned in numerical order. Colour of the horse. Name of the Vendor presenting the horse for Sale. Sex of the horse. Letter of the Barn the horse is located in at Karaka and the stable number.

The horses date of birth.

The fathers name and year he was born.

The mothers name and year she was born.

These are the horses grandparents on both the paternal and maternal sides. In this case, Zabeel is the paternal grandfather. And Pins is the maternal grandfather.

This is the 'black-type' performance record for the horses father - otherwise known as Sire. Along with the 'black-type' performance of his progeny.

The 1st dam is the horses mother. The 2nd dam is the horses maternal grandmother.

Account of **CAMBRIDGE STUD, Cambridge.**

Lot 301 **BAY COLT** **Box 1 22**

Foaled 25th August 2016 Branded : C nr sh; 1 over 6 off sh

Sire	Zabeel	Sir Tristram..... Sir Ivor
2001	Savannah Success	Lady Giselle..... Nureyev
		Success Express..... Hold Your Peace
		Alma Mater..... Semipalatinsk
Dam	Pins	Snippets..... Lunchtime
2006	Miss Jessie Jay	No Finer..... Kaoru Star
		Spectacularphantom..... Spectacular Bid
		Miss Distinction..... Bletchencore

SAVABEEL (AUS) (Brown 2001-Stud 2005). 3 wins-1 at 2, MVRC WS Cox P, Gr.1. Champion NZ Sire 3 times. Sire of 678 mrs, 462 wnsr, 67 SW, inc. SW Sangster (Victoria Derby, Gr.1), Kawi, Lucia Valentina, Soriano, Savaria, Scarlett Lady, Costume, Diademe, Pasadena Girl, Brambles, Hall of Fame, Shillelagh, Sound Proposition, Coldplay, Florida, Lady Kipling, Saavoya, Savvy Nature, Chintz, My Emotion, Gold Fever, Do Ra Mi, etc.

1st dam
KATIE LEE, by Pins. Champion 3YO in NZ in 2009-10. 8 wins-2 at 2-from 1000m to 2000m, NZ\$1,106,675, New Zealand One Thousand Guineas, Gr.1. New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas, Gr.1. ARC Eight Carat Classic, Gr.2. Waikato RC Sir Tristram Fillies Classic, Gr.2. ARC Eclipse S., Gr.3. Hawkes Bay Traderacks S., Gr.3. Waikato RC James & Annie Sarten Memorial S., L. Esker Lodge 2YO H., 2d ARC Royal S., Gr.2. Manawatu RC Eulogy S., Gr.3. Waikato RC Star Way S., L. Counties Challenge S., L. ARC One Cool Cat 2YO H., 3d Hawkes Bay Gold Trail S., Gr.3. WRC Desert Gold S., Gr.3. Half-sister to **BANCHEE, Eclair Fantastic**. This is her fourth foal. Her third foal is a 2YO. Dam of one foal to race - Legramor (by Command). 2 wins at 1200m to 2017-18, Waikato RC Shaun Cosgrave-Harcourts H., 2d Rotorua RC Rydges H., Whangarei RC Kensington Tavern H.

2nd dam
MISS JESSIE JAY, by Spectacularphantom. 9 wins from 1200m to 2000m, NZ\$153,425, Egmont RC Fayette Park S., Gr.3. CJC Warstep S., L. Levin S.H., L. 2d Egmont RC Fayette Park S., Gr.3. 3d Manawatu Classic, Gr.3. WRC Thompson H., Gr.3. Manawatu Breeders' S., L. 4th Wairarapa Thoroughbred Breeders' S., L. 2009-10 NZ Broodmare of the Year. Half-sister to **GEE I JANE**, Miss Katella (dam of **SAN BERNARDINO**). Dam of 5 named foals, 4 to race, all winners, inc:-
KATIE LEE (Pins). 8 wins. See above.
BANCHEE (Oratorio). Champion 2YO in NZ in 2009-10. 6 wins-3 at 2-from 1100m to 1600m, NZ\$433,225, A\$10,000, ARC Diamond S., Gr.1. Matamata Breeders' S., Gr.2. ARC Cambridge Stud Yearling Draft 3YO H., 2d ARC Eight Carat Classic, Gr.2. Eclipse S., Gr.3. 3d ARC Karaka Million, RL. 4th Counties RC Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders' S., Gr.2.
Eclair Fantastic (Spectatorial). 5 wins at 1000m, 1200m, A\$94,240, HK\$138,000, M\$771,500 in Aust. and Macau, MRC Harrolds Fashion P., 2d Macau Spring Trophy, L. 4th Hong Kong Macau Trophy, L.

3rd dam
MISS DISTINCTION, by Bletchencore. Winner at 1200m. Half-sister to Mia Malagra (dam of **HAMPTON'S CHOICE**). Dam of 13 named foals, 12 to race, 11 winners, inc:-
GEE I JANE (Jahafil). Champion sprinter/miler in NZ in 2005-06. 6 wins at 1200m, NZ\$272,500, A\$564,550, BTC Cup, Gr.1. WRC Telegraph H., Gr.1. Avondale JC Concorde H., Gr.2. 2d ARC Railway H., Gr.1-3. QTC Stradbroke H., Gr.1. 3d Waikato Draught Sprint, Gr.1. Producer.
MISS JESSIE JAY (Spectacularphantom). 9 wins. See above.
Miss Katella. Winner at 1100m. Dam of-
SAN BERNARDINO (Gold Mine). 4 wins-2 at 2-to 1200m, NZ\$218,375, CJC Stewards' S., Gr.3. 3d Manawatu Sires' Produce S., Gr.1.

Every horse at the Sale is branded. The symbol that is branded on the near shoulder indicates where they were bred or branded, in this case CS is Cambridge Stud. The off shoulder brand tells us which year they were born and what number foal they were that season to be branded on the farm. In this case, the horse was the 1st foal to be branded at Cambridge Stud and it was born in 2016.

Here is a sibling to the horse being sold, its name is Legramor and listed here is her racing performance. Pedigree pages that feature a lot of 'black-type' on the page are an indication of the horses superior breeding and record of significant related stake race of winners.

Stakes races in the order of prestige and stakes prizemoney:
#1 Group 1 (Gr.1)
#2 Group 2 (Gr.2)
#3 Group 3 (Gr.3)
#4 Listed (L)

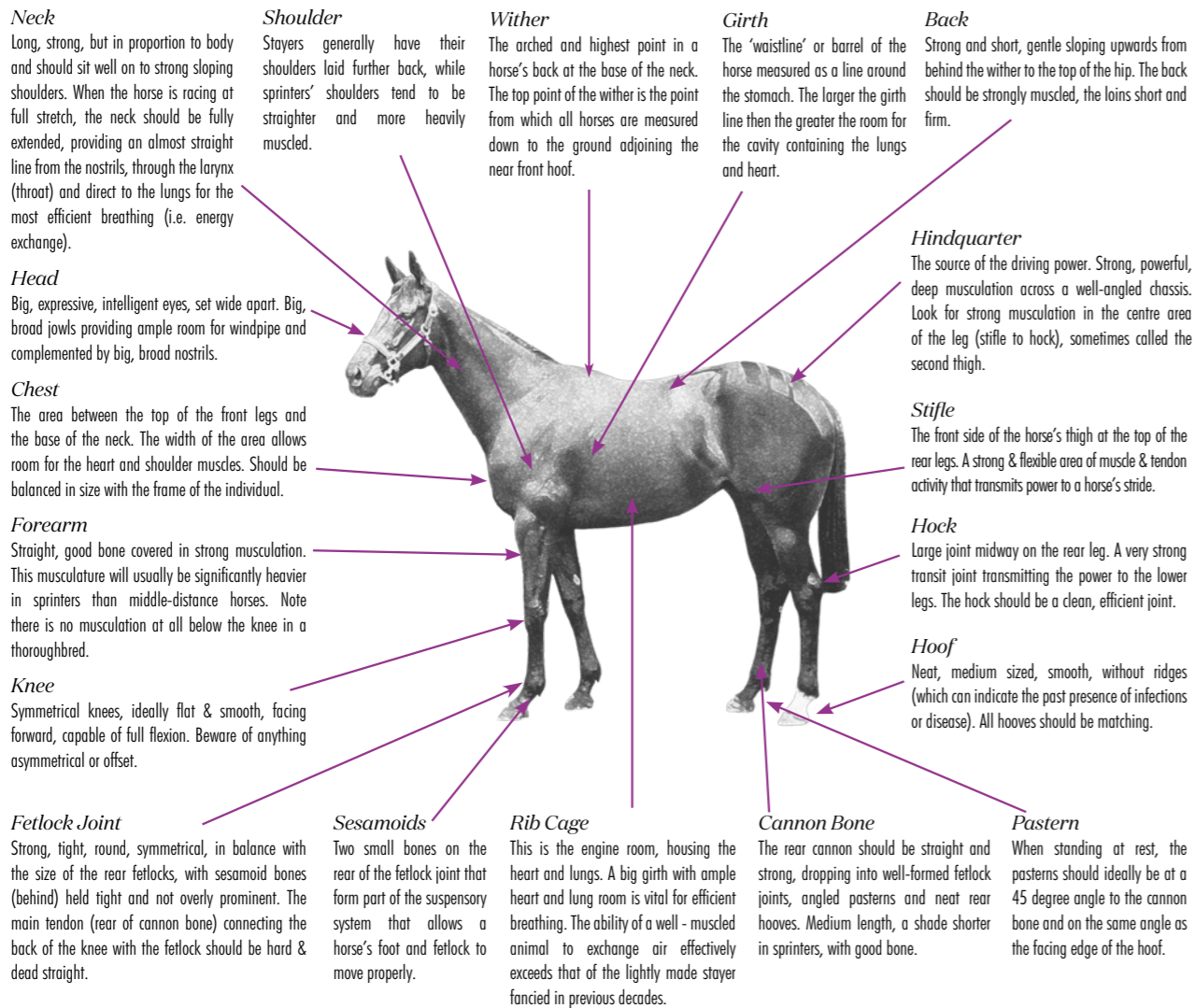
Did you know...

Pedigree pages that feature a lot of 'black-type' on the page are an indication of the horse's superior breeding and record of significant related stakes winners.

Step 6:

SELECT A FAST RACEHORSE

There are a number of things that the experts look for when selecting a racehorse. Below we have summarised some of the key qualities that you may want to look for in a prospective horse.



Did you know...

Some bloodstock agents and buyers will take a scientific approach when selecting a horse, measuring the horses' heart and other biomechanics to assess their potential.

At auction, full veterinary reports of each horse are available to ensure the horse is fit for their future athletic careers.

Step 7:

SELECT A RACING MANAGER AND REGISTER YOUR OWNERSHIP WITH NZTR

If you are part of a syndicate or your horse has multiple owners, a racing manager is required to be appointed. The racing manager is responsible for acting on behalf of the owners or lessees in all matters relating to the horse. They have authority, with consent of all of the owners, to sign

documents such as a change of ownership form. In many cases, the racing manager for the horse may be your trainer or the authorised syndicator you purchased a share from. The racing manager will be able to help you complete all of the necessary documentation.

Step 8:

CHOOSE YOUR TRAINER

If you have purchased a share in a syndicate, it is unlikely that you will need to worry about selecting the right trainer for your horse, as most authorised syndicators will make that selection based on their expert knowledge. However, it is still important that you know some of the key factors considered when selecting an appropriate trainer.

COMMUNICATION

A trainer's ability to communicate with their owners, and their general philosophy towards training is probably the most important attribute to look for when selecting a trainer.

LOCATION

You may want to see your horse as often as possible, so it's important to consider where the trainer's stables are located in relation to where you live.

TRAINING FACILITIES

The facilities that trainers offer can vary. Some may have access to the beach, a water walker, swimming

pool and treadmill, in addition to a training track. Some may only stable their horses, while others will have access to paddocks as well. Either way, most trainers will be delighted to show you around their establishment without commitment, as long as you arrange the visit in advance.

STRIKE RATE/RECORD

Consider the trainer's experience; both the length of time they've been in their training career, and their success rate. You can find these statistics by using the search function to search for the trainer of interest at the following web address: loveracing.nz/trainers.

TRAINING FEES

These are charged on a daily basis and can vary depending on the horse's stage of training. Most trainers can provide this as a monthly amount but it's also important to ask about any incidental charges that may be incurred, such as track fees, cover/saddlery charges, blacksmith fees, normal vet costs and transport charges.

Consider the trainer's experience; both the length of time they've been in their training career, and their success rate.

Step 9:

NAME YOUR HORSE

Selecting a name for your racehorse is one of the joys of being an owner. Often a hotly debated topic between owners, naming a horse can be one of the most creative and fun parts of the registration process.

One of the more popular methods of creating a name is by combining the sire and the dam e.g. The Model (Truly Vain from The Vision). Keep in mind there are a few rules when it comes to selecting a name for your horse.

Visit: loveracing.nz/choose-your-name to check if the name you like is available.

Did you know...
If you are a business owner, corporate colours can also be registered which will allow you to use your company brand, logo & colours.

*Last Step:
Let the fun
begin!!*

Step 10:

CHOOSE AND REGISTER YOUR HORSE'S COLOURS

Choosing and registering racing colours is one of the privileges of ownership, and allows owners to exercise creativity and personal choice if they wish. Racing colours (also known as silks) include a jacket and a cap. Different colours and patterns can be used on each of these.

There are two distinct choices when it comes to which colours your horse will race in when it competes: owner's colours or stable colours.

OWNER'S COLOURS

A new owner can design and register a set of racing colours/silks for their horse to race in. Owner's colours cost \$105.00 to register on a five year renewal cycle. Here's how to do it:

Design your colours

The first step is to design your colours, this can be done online via hylandssportswear.com.

Colours Application form

Once you have come up with a design, your racing colours will need to be approved. This can be done by filling in the Colours Application form. To find the Colours Application form visit:

loveracing.nz/choose-your-colours.

Certificate issued

NZTR will issue you with a certificate and then you can get your set of colours made. Your trainer can advise you of a suitable company to use.

STABLE COLOURS

Your trainer or authorised syndicator will have a set of racing colours registered for their stable and these may be used by owners, usually at no cost.

Racehorse Ownership.

Having a horse in work

DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT OF YOUR RACEHORSE

The trainer you have chosen is an expert. They are responsible for training your racehorse, and the care and wellbeing of your horse throughout its racing career. Trainers will often help organise other services for you such as breaking-in, pre-training and agistment.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is one of the most important components of a successful relationship between owners and trainers. The personal rapport you have with a trainer or the racing manager of your horse is important, as it can significantly impact the enjoyment you derive from owning and racing your horse.

Most trainers or their racing manager will phone, text or send emails to update their owners on the progress of their horse(s) at least fortnightly. Some will also send out photos and videos. In addition to this, you will also get updates from NZTR's Owners Portal letting you know when your horse has been accepted into a race in New Zealand, the field has been finalised, if the horse has been scratched and when the race has been resulted.

STABLE VISITS & TRACKWORK

Aside from racedays, one of the most enjoyable aspects of ownership is being able to visit your horse at the trainer's stable and watch them in trackwork as they're prepared

for the races. Regular visits to the stables to see your trainer in person, adds greatly to the ownership experience.

Wherever you decide to send your horse, there are few more exciting sights than watching them working along in the early morning. Springtime is especially upbeat at some of the bigger training centres located near Cambridge, Matamata, Awapuni and Riccarton tracks. They transform into a hive of activity with young hopefuls being prepared for the prestigious races ahead.

It is wise to notify your trainer if you would like to visit the stable or attend trackwork. For most trainers, this is an important part of the service they offer and owners are usually welcome.

HEALTH & SAFETY AROUND HORSES

If you are visiting the trainer's stable or are at trackwork, please pay attention to the Health and Safety guidelines and notifications. Remember racehorses, like any animal, can be unpredictable at times. If you are unsure or feel uncomfortable, speak to your trainer.

Gearing up for Raceday.

CHOOSING A SUITABLE RACE

Before your horse's first start, usually in a 'maiden' race (for non-winners), they will normally run in a qualifying trial for experience. Once through this stage it's time to get ready to race!

It's the responsibility of your trainer to plan the racing programme for your horse, including selecting the most suitable races. This is normally done in consultation with the owner or racing manager, and includes factors such as a fair assessment of your horse's ability, distance preference and the track conditions on which it's most likely to perform best.

The countdown to the race begins with the 'nomination' stage, where the horse is entered for the selected assignment. Then 'acceptances', where your horse will be allocated a barrier draw and at this point the starting time of the race will also be confirmed. This is followed by declaration of a jockey.

BEFORE THE BIG DAY

In advance of raceday, you will receive notifications via email when your horse has been accepted into a race, or if it is scratched prior to the race. In addition, you will receive an email from NZTR and the racing club where your horse is running. This will advise you of the owner's privileges available on the day such as complimentary tickets, facilities available and details of any pre and post-race hospitality. Your trainer will also update you on how your horse is progressing in preparation for its assignment.

THE OWNER'S RACEDAY EXPERIENCE

Racing clubs will generally provide owners with access to special areas on raceday. The facilities available differ from club to club as does the dress code. The racing club's website will advise of the appropriate dress code for each area.

If your horse races at one of the major carnivals, such as NZ Cup Meeting in Christchurch, or Wellington Cup Carnival at Trentham, it's your chance to 'dress to impress'. But you can have just as much fun going casual at one of the unique country club meetings.

Prior to the start of the race, you may have the opportunity to meet the jockey with your trainer to discuss your horse's chances, as well as possible riding tactics. After the race your trainer will speak to the jockey and review how the horse performed. The trainer will then pass this information on to you, and plans for the future can be made. If your horse has won, you will likely be too excited to worry about anything else!

Win or lose, one of the main attractions of being involved with racehorse ownership at any level, is to be on course to watch your horse compete. From nomination stage, to analysis of the opposition, track conditions and even the TAB odds, anticipation and excitement reaches a crescendo as raceday rolls around.

Racehorse ownership is truly an experience like no other!

Racing Attire

A quick guide

Understandably it can be intimidating for newcomers to know what to wear at the races, and when. Especially when the most common images seen are the glamorous high-end fashion shots taken at more prominent events, like the Karaka Millions. Any raceday is a good opportunity to dress beautifully, but it doesn't always have to be so elaborate.

Below we have pulled together a quick style guide to help you better understand the dress code for each racing event.

PREMIER DAYS

This is where you really get to strut your stuff. Think classy. Women wear beautiful flattering dresses, well cut in eye catching colours and usually no shorter than just above the knee. Go wild with headpieces, and wear open-toed shoes that will take you from day to night. At these events men should be wearing a suit, tailored shirt and tie with quality footwear. If feeling adventurous, go the whole nine yards with a three-piece suit if you like!

INDUSTRY DAYS

More relaxed than Group 1 races, men tend to wear stylish collared shirts, dress pants, casual tailored jackets or blazers and quality footwear. Women's attire usually consists of floral or summery well cut dresses which fall to the knee, teamed with pretty cardigans or cropped jackets, wide brimmed hats, wedges or dressy sandals.

No matter what raceday you're attending, racing events offer a wonderful mix of formality and fun, where your outfit can be a reflection of your personality, while still keeping the track-side dress codes in mind.





Equine Welfare

A High Priority

THE 1% WELFARE LEVY

Introduced in September 2021, 1% of all stakes is allocated to the 1% welfare levy to fund welfare related thoroughbred activities. Quarterly reports are distributed to industry to provide transparency around how the levy is utilised.

ACKNOWLEDGED RETRAINERS

Acknowledged Retrainers are a critical partner to ensure the successful rehoming of thoroughbreds beyond their lives on the racetrack. Acknowledged Retrainers operate separately to NZTR, and they have gained their 'Acknowledged' status based on being held in high regard within the industry, as well as for their skill and track record in successfully retraining and rehoming thoroughbreds. A full list of acknowledged retrainers can be found at nztr.co.nz/acknowledged-retrainers.

NZ HORSE AMBULANCE TRUST

A purpose-built horse ambulance fleet is on track at every thoroughbred race and trial meeting, operated by trained experienced operators. Ambulances are located across the North and South Islands and are available to deal with training accidents and to transport injured horses to equine referral clinics or hospitals.

A tenth horse ambulance and tow vehicle, funded by the TAB Rejuvenation Fund, was deployed to Cambridge in early September 2024. This increased the nationwide coverage to ten: six in the North Island and four in the South Island.

Did you know...

Individual thoroughbreds can be easily identified by their brands and microchips listed in the New Zealand Stud Book.

Visit loveracing.nz/stud-book/search to find specific breeding information.

POST-RACING NZOTTB SPONSORSHIP

NZTR works with the different equestrian disciplines and recreational sports to encourage the use of thoroughbreds in a variety of disciplines to help bridge the gap between the thoroughbred and equestrian communities. The NZTR Welfare team is on a mission to explore opportunities and solutions that stimulate the demand for the ever-versatile thoroughbred, but also ensure that NZTR are supporting, educating, and improving the horsemanship skills of those for whom the thoroughbred is their horse of choice.

TRACEABILITY

Attaining 'whole-of-life traceability' for the New Zealand thoroughbred population is a main priority which faces practical limitations, given unlicensed owners are not subject to NZTR regulatory oversight. That is why it is imperative all owners or trainers submit an 'SR24 Notification of Death or Retirement of a Thoroughbred' return for every horse, so NZTR can maintain full traceability on all thoroughbreds for the period between foaling and either death or retirement from racing and/or breeding, whichever is earliest. This known as 'comprehensive traceability'.

An independent in-depth report of the thoroughbred population aimed at providing retirement data was carried out of the 23/24 season. To date the report highlights improvement by the industry to complete the SR24's to ensure we can provide up-to-date information and better forecasting.

SR24 forms and more information can be found at nztr.co.nz/population-traceability.

Glossary

Often heard 'Racing Terms'

3/4 PACE

Three-quarters of the speed at which they race at (gallop). This term is generally used to determine the proposed level of effort before commencing training.

ACTION

A horse's manner of moving.

BREAKING IN

This is carried out in the early stages of a horse's education for it to learn the basic fundamentals of racing.

CONFORMATION

A horse's build and general physical structure; the way he/she is put together.

GALLOP

Top gait for a horse – the speed they race at.

GREENLY

A term sometimes used to describe a horse that is very inexperienced i.e. "The jockey reported that the horse ran 'greenly' during the race."

HALF PACE

Half the speed at which they race at (gallop). This term is generally used to determine the proposed level of effort before commencing a training workout.

JUMPOUTS

These are designed to give a horse practice in the barrier gates and jumping out from them.

LENGTH

A 'length' is 8 feet - approximately the same length as a horse. Winning margins are measured in lengths, that includes a nose, half-head, head, neck, long neck, half a length and three-quarters of a length.

OFF THE BIT/BRIDLE

The opposite of on the bit/bridle and generally used when your horse is travelling at its fastest speed.

ON THE BIT/BRIDLE

A horse moving at a pace, seemingly without much effort or need for its jockey to push it. This can be deceptive as sometimes these horses will not find extra speed when their jockeys push them at the end of a race.

PULLING

A horse pulling on the bit/pulling for its head i.e. wanting to go too fast too soon, so the jockey tries to restrain it by pulling back on the reins, sometimes leading to a 'tug of war' effect. It is necessary to do this because horses that go too fast early in a race, can burn out before the finish.

SPELLING

Like all top athletes, a break to recuperate and recover is vital for development & general wellbeing.

TRIALS

These are the next step up from Jumpouts & are designed to give a horse practice in race like conditions. They are very much like an official race without the prize money, and are used to educate young horses or improve the fitness of more mature horses.

WHOOOHOO / YEAAAAHEY

Exultant sound made when the horse you own has won. You won't notice yourself doing it, but you will. Tune the frequency and decibel level to suit your vocal chords.

WORK

This refers to a horse's day to day exercise, or 'work', as it is commonly referred to. The trainer will determine the level of work required to progress the horse to achieving race fitness.

Race Entries, Conditions & Restrictions

ACCEPTANCES

This occurs following the nomination process & confirms your horse's intention to start.

BALLOT

Your horse may be placed 'on the ballot', which basically means that they are not guaranteed a start in that race due to the maximum number of entries being exceeded. This can change if fellow acceptances are scratched from the event, resulting in a start for your horse.

BLACK-TYPE

Term used by the bloodstock industry to denote a horse that has won or been placed in a Group/Listed race. Horses 'going for black type' are attempting to win or be placed in a Group/Listed race to improve their breeding value.

CLASSIC RACES

These races are carried out for 3YO horses only, and range in distance from 1500m to 2400m. While the Oaks and 1000 Guineas are for fillies only; the 2000 Guineas and Derby are open for all 3YOs.

CONDITIONS

The requirements of a particular race, including: age, sex, money or races won, weight carried and the distance of the race.

HANDICAP

A race in which the weights are calculated by an official assessor (called a handicapper). The better class horses carry the highest weights while the lesser class horses carry lower weights with the top weight generally being 60kg extending down to a bottom weight of 54kg. Horses rated above 100 can run in handicap races but generally don't as they would have too much weight to carry. These horses can be aimed at Weight-for-Age events.

JUVENILES

Young horses aged two. One of New Zealand's richest races is the Karaka Million which is restricted to horses of this age.

LISTED & GROUP RACES

These are black-type events that are extremely valuable & carry more prominence than other races. The first level of black-type are called 'Listed' races, while 'GR 3' & 'GR 2' are the next step up. At the top, 'GR 1' races are the most prestigious, generally offering the most prize money.

MAIDEN

A horse that has yet to win a race. Maiden races are usually restricted to such horses but there are certain conditions which allow previous winners.

NOMINATIONS

When your horse has been entered into a race.

RATINGS

Ratings generally go from as low as 47 to as high as 120+. The level of racing that a horse competes in is determined by its ratings - the higher the ratings, the higher the grade of race i.e. Rating 65, 75, 85 and Open.



Raceday need to knows

ABANDONED

When a race meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather or other safety factors.

APPRENTICE (CLAIM)

A trainee jockey connected to the stable of a licensed trainer. Apprentices benefit from a weight allowance, determined by their number of wins, which can be claimed in most races. The claim begins at 4kg and is reduced as the number of wins rise. The claim is lost when an apprentice reaches 130 wins.

BARRIER ATTENDANTS

They are responsible for ensuring horses enter the stalls safely – a highly skilled, yet sometimes dangerous, job.

BARRIER STALL/GATES

These ensure that each horse gets a fair chance at the start, even though some horses break out of them more slowly than others.

COLOURS

Jacket ('silks') worn by jockey to identify a horse.

LATE SCRATCHING

When a horse has been withdrawn from a race event immediately prior to the race.

RACEDAY OFFICE

This is a very important place to know for an owner. This building is where you collect your owner privileges including racebook, swingers/tickets, free drink tickets & ticket into the pre-race area to view your horse parading.

STRAPPER

A person who is responsible for preparing and saddling the horse on raceday/trial days and tends to the horse's needs throughout.

STEWARDS

One of the officials in overall charge of a race meeting, including disciplinary procedures. The stewards can hold inquiries into possible rule infringements or hear objections to the race result from beaten jockeys.

STEWARDS ENQUIRY

An investigation by the stewards into any incidents during the race. For instance, if a jockey has broken the rules or one horse has caused interference to another. This can lead to a relegation and/or lead to the jockey receiving a suspension.

Raceday need to knows cont.

TIE-UPS

The restricted area where horses are located before/after racing and only trainers, strappers, officials and permitted persons are granted access to this area.

TRACK MANAGER

The racecourse official responsible for overall racecourse management, including the preparation of the racing surface.

THE STARTER

Plays an extremely vital role in ensuring that horses are provided a fair jump from the gates.

TOTE

A booth or counter where you can place a bet on a horse. Totes can be found in all areas of the racecourse.

WEIGHING IN/OUT

Each jockey (wearing his racing kit and carrying his saddle) must stand on official weighing scales before and after the race, so that the Clerk of the Scales can check that the jockey is carrying the correct weight allotted to his horse. If a jockey is above the allotted weight before the race, his horse can still compete but must carry overweight. After the race, the winner and placed horses' weights are verified again, and an announcement is made that they have 'weighed in'. This confirms the race result and at this point the tote will pay out on successful bets.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

The prominent area designated for winning connections to celebrate the victory of their horse. Post-race formalities are generally conducted in this area. This includes a presentation to the winning connections of their trophy/prizes from racing club & sponsors.

Race Gear

BIT

A piece that sits in the horse's mouth, above the tongue, & can be considered the 'brake'.

BLINKERS

A piece of gear applied to the horse's head, to help their focus & concentration.

BRIDLE

A raceday head collar for a horse.

GIRTH STRAP

A very important piece of racing equipment which attaches to the saddle. This elastic strap goes around the girth of the horse and keeps the jockey firmly on top of a horse's back!

REINS

The long straps attached to the bit that the jockey uses to steer and control their horse.

SADDLE CLOTH

The layer of cloth that sits under the saddle & carries your horse's raceday number.

SADDLE

The driver's seat!

LOVE RACING.
OWN RACING.



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