

January 2023

Dear Owners and Trainers,

The [NZTR Acknowledged Retainers network](#) is intended to make it as straightforward as possible for an Accountable person to fulfil their duty of care in ensuring that each horse is rehomed appropriately upon retirement from racing. This, along with the submission of a completed SR24 form, ensures that both traceability requirements and horse welfare are at the forefront when a horse is retired.

NZTR Acknowledged Retainers continue to receive support via the [1 % Welfare Levy on prize money](#). However, in addition to this support, the first operational year of the Acknowledged Retainers network has highlighted the need for industry wide support and buy-in at every level. This is crucial for the network to succeed and continue offering a quality service to the Thoroughbreds that are rehomed.

NZTR has put together a checklist for owners and trainers to follow which will ensure that any horse consigned to an Acknowledged Retainer is consigned in a way that supports the system as a whole. We wholeheartedly encourage owners and trainers to have open discussions and put a plan in place to ensure that the needs of each individual horse (as set out below) can be met as they transition into retirement.

- 1. Any Thoroughbred Consigned to an Acknowledged Retainer's property must have its initial transport to that property covered by its Accountable Person.**

Why is this important?

Acknowledged Retainers operate on extremely tight profit margins and each cost incurred is significant. In addition to the support provided to Acknowledged Retainers by the 1% welfare levy on stakes money, covering this cost is extremely important in ensuring Acknowledged Retainers remain financially viable and hence able to service the industry.

- 2. Any Thoroughbred consigned to an Acknowledged Retainer by its Accountable Person or a licence holder must arrive in good body condition, recently shod, and ready to start work if not already in work.**

Why is this important?

Given the volume of horses expected to be rehomed each year through Acknowledged Retainers (circa 250) it is not viable for NZTR to cover a basic expense such as shoeing, or costs of agistment or injury rehabilitation for each horse. Also, given the market value of a recently retired Thoroughbred, these are not expenses that can feasibly be covered by the Acknowledged Retainers. It is therefore expected that each horses' connections make provision to cover these costs when the horse is retired until such a time when it is able to be ridden and hence rehomed.

3. Any Thoroughbred consigned to an Acknowledged Retainer must be presented with full disclosure of any relevant medical or behavioural history.

Why is this important?

This is important not only to ensure the safety of any Retainer who will subsequently work with the horse but is also extremely important in allowing each Retainer to assess the horse's suitability for any given rider or equestrian pursuit and hence rehome it appropriately with full medical and behavioural disclosure.

4. Any Thoroughbred consigned to an Acknowledged Retainer must have an [SR24 'Death or Retirement of a Thoroughbred' Form](#) submitted by its Accountable Person.

Why is this important?

Rule 417 requires that a [SR24 form](#) must be submitted for every horse by their accountable person (trainer or owner) upon retirement. When consigning a horse to an Acknowledged Retainer, state the retirement location as being with that Retainer. When the horse is subsequently rehomed, the Retainer provides further traceability information directly to NZTR.

For any further information on the Acknowledged Retainers Network or to find an Acknowledged Retainer near you, please visit:

<https://loveracing.nz/Welfare/Thoroughbred-Welfare/Acknowledged-Retrainers>

NZTR is grateful to the NZ Trainers' Association and the NZ Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners' Federation for their reviews of this guideline.