

# Cruelty. You can bet on it.

Every year, around 200 horses are raced to death in Britain.

## The horses always lose

The racing industry wants the public to believe that betting on horses is just a harmless flutter, when racing is actually a ruthless



business that treats animals as expendable, profit-making commodities.

### **Dirty Secrets**

In recent years, around 13,000 foals have been born annually into the closely-linked British and Irish racing industries. The number of horses 'produced' over the past 50 years has spiralled due to unregulated breeding practices. An unspecified number of foals – most probably thousands – will never see a racecourse and their fate remains unknown due to the lack of transparency in the industry. But many will simply be killed.

Those who do race are likely to have short careers, some having just one, two or three races before they are cast out. And all race horses run a high risk of serious injury. Around 200 horses die each year either whilst racing or from subsequent injuries. An indeterminate number of horses die in training.

Deaths on racecourses are attributed to a broken leg, back, neck or pelvis; extreme exhaustion leading to a heart attack; or burst blood vessels in the lungs.

Racing and breeding 'failures' may be destroyed at their stables or sent for slaughter.

#### Spare the Rod

Advocates of the whip say that it is used for 'encouragement' and 'correction'. The reality is that exhausted horses are whipped to force them to keep running. As well as being cruel, whipping horses does not actually increase jockeys' chances of winning. The whip can drive horses off a true line and place them, and other horses, in danger.

#### **End of the Line**

Around 7,500 horses have been leaving British racing each year. The industry gives a pittance to provide for retired animals. Many suffer a downward spiral of neglect, which can end at the slaughterhouse.

#### What can you do?

Don't bet on animals' lives! Betting income and racecourse attendance fees keep the racing industry in business. And please send for a free information pack and support Animal Aid's work to end animal suffering.



#### For more information and a FREE information pack, contact Animal Aid

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