



**The Grand National is staged at Aintree at the start of April. The big race is the climax of a three-day meeting that cost the lives of 38 horses between 2000 and 2012.**

Many people, who wouldn't normally bet on horseracing, have a 'harmless flutter' on the Grand National. But there is nothing harmless about a race that routinely inflicts serious injury and death upon horses who take part.

[www.stopkillinghorses.com](http://www.stopkillinghorses.com)



## **Four horses dead in the last two years**

Last year, two horses, Synchronised and According To Pete, suffered massive injuries after falling during the Grand National and were destroyed. In 2011, there were two more victims when Ornaïs broke his neck and Dooneys Gate suffered spinal injuries.

**In 2012, Animal Aid commissioned an NOP opinion poll in which 59 per cent who expressed an opinion said that the Grand National is cruel.**



**The Grand National is a deliberately punishing and hazardous race; longer than any other (nearly four and a half miles) and presenting 30 uniquely high and awkward obstacles.**

It features perilous drops, ditches and sharp turns. Many of the horses will have encountered nothing like it before. Forty usually take part. This is an excessively crowded field, which adds to the risk of collisions and falls. Only one third are likely to finish.



**Defenders of the race peddle a variety of myths in their attempts to justify it:**

**If the horses didn't like it, they wouldn't carry on running after their jockeys fall off**

Horses are herd animals. They feel safer when part of a group, especially in the noisy, often unfamiliar raceday environment.

**The horses enjoy the challenge**

They are not equal to the challenge. The modern industry concentrates on breeding lighter-boned, speedier animals for Flat racing. Less successful Flat racers, or those good at clearing fences, are consigned to jump racing. But, because they are fine-tuned for speed rather than skeletal strength, they risk fatal injury when they fall – a common occurrence at Aintree.

**The horses are treated like kings**

Evidence suggests that, every year, thousands of horses who don't pay their way are slaughtered for meat or killed in their yards.

**Isn't the Grand National safer now?**

Despite numerous 'safety improvements', the Grand National has become more dangerous in recent years. It has a horse fatality rate more than five times as high as other jump races in Britain.

**To support Animal Aid's work to end animal suffering, please fill in your details below and we will send you a FREE information pack.**

### What you can do

**Don't bet on the Grand National or any races involving animals. Betting income and racecourse attendance fees keep the racing industry in business.**

- Please send me a FREE information pack
- I enclose a donation of £

Please make cheque/PO payable to Animal Aid

Name:

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Please return this form to: **Animal Aid, The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1AW** • Tel: 01732 364546 • Email: [info@animalaid.org.uk](mailto:info@animalaid.org.uk)