



Ban National Hunt (Jump) Racing – Fact Sheet

More than 150 – approximately 1 in 58 – National Hunt race horses are killed in Great Britain each year *

The racing industry is failing to prevent the deaths. This indicates that horses' lives are expendable to an industry bent on the pursuit of profit, gambling and entertainment.

Ten contributing factors behind jump race deaths:

- 1) Inappropriate racing conditions kill horses of all abilities, including fences and hurdles that *have* to be jumped, and poor racing ground
- 2) Many horses lack the ability to cope with the host of excessive demands in a National Hunt jump race, resulting in injury and death
- 3) Far too many horses are bred for racing, and poor race planning means that many are unable to survive in the excessively competitive environment
- 4) Welfare issues for individual horses can include weight carried, distance run, use of the whip and exhaustion. Either singularly or as a combination, these can be contributing factors causing injury and death.
- 5) An unregulated supply of race horses, combined with variable economic factors, leaves those of less ability vulnerable
- 6) A lack of transparency and accountability by the racing industry facilitates high equine mortality free from independent scrutiny
- 7) A compliant workforce, including the veterinary profession's governing body and associate organisations, remain silent on the issue of race horse fatalities
- 8) Associated commercial empires (bookmakers, racecourses, breeders, owners, sponsors) are reticent about the need for change
- 9) The Government allows racing to conduct its own horse welfare policy.
- 10) A welfare policy conceived and operated by the racing industry itself allows deaths to continue

*For more detailed information, contact info@animalaid.org.uk