



The Grand National Meeting: The Issues, Facts and Figures 2024

• A total of **65 horses** have been killed as a result of racing at the three-day Grand National Meeting since the year 2000. Of these:

- **16 horses** have been killed in the main Grand National Race
- **21 horses** have been killed on the Grand National course in other races held during the three-day Grand National Meeting
- **28 horses** have been killed on the Mildmay course during the Grand National Meeting

NB The Grand National Meeting was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19.

- Animal Aid's **list of all horses who have died at the Grand National Meeting** since 2000, including their details, can be viewed at: <https://www.animalaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/GN-Deaths-2000-to-2023.pdf>
- In 2007, Animal Aid launched **Race Horse Death Watch** – the only public record of the names and details of horses who were killed on all British racecourses, compiled by Animal Aid's meticulous research. www.horsedeathwatch.com
- **Animal Aid's Horseracing Consultant, Dene Stansall**, has analysed the issues surrounding the Grand National in this report: <https://www.animalaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GN-Briefing-Sheet-2024.pdf>

Animal Aid is calling for a ban on jump (National Hunt) racing as a consequence of the huge death toll – see www.animalaid.org.uk/BanJumpRacing

Additional background notes for Editors:

- Animal Aid has been at the forefront of exposing, and campaigning against, the racing industry for more than two decades. <https://www.animalaid.org.uk/the-issues/our-campaigns/horse-racing/ban-the-grand-national/>
- Animal Aid's campaign to ban the use of the whip in racing was supported by **96 MPs**. A **public opinion poll in 2018** found that 68% of respondents oppose the use of the whip in racing. A 2020 Early Day Motion calling for a ban on the whip was supported by 97 MPs – see <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/54592/use-of-the-whip-in-british-horseracing>
- Animal Aid's campaign for the creation of **an independent body to be responsible for race horse welfare** led to a **Parliamentary debate** on race horse welfare in 2018. The debate came about as the result of more than 105,000 compassionate people signing a government petition. It called for the British Horseracing Authority to be stripped of its responsibility for race horse welfare, and instead for that vital job to be

awarded to an independent body of professionals who would hold the industry to account over the shocking rate of race horse deaths and injuries. We continue to campaign for this goal.

- In 2021, Animal Aid's undercover footage from a UK abattoir that slaughters horses featured exclusively in the BBC Panorama programme entitled The Dark Side of Horseracing. The programme showed that horses, including horses from the British and Irish racing industries, were being slaughtered for their meat. As a result of the programme, the British Horseracing Authority introduced regulations that make it compulsory for any horse racing in Britain to be signed out of the food chain. Animal Aid wants the government to go further and to introduce limits on the numbers of horses who can be produced, because this will result in fewer unwanted horses. One of the horses featured in the programme was top race horse Vyta Du Roc, who was killed for his meat. For more information visit: www.animalaid.org.uk/horse-slaughter