



CRUELTY.

YOU CAN BET ON IT.

Around **200 horses** are raced to death in the UK every year. Missy made it to sanctuary, but almost nobody else does. Find out more inside.



What's the problem with horse racing?

Horse racing has been around in Britain for a few hundred years, but **horses are an ancient species.**

In the wild, horses live in herds and flee from predators. This instinct is what is used against them to make them appear to compete in races. **Under every jockey is a scared animal, running for their life, and many will not make it.**



Horse racing is morally indefensible because:

- ☠ Deaths on courses are common
- 🌀 Horses are whipped to encourage speed
- 💥 Injuries and exhaustion are common
- 🔄 Horses are bred intensively
- 💔 Horses suffer extreme stress
- ✗ Most horses who don't win are killed



These horses are among the fortunate few offered lifelong sanctuary. Thousands leaving racing each year have no such guaranteed lifelong protection.

How bad is the problem?

Animal Aid has been monitoring horse racing for over 20 years and has identified a **high mortality rate** every year, as well as many jockeys **failing to meet restrictions** on the use of the whip.

The British Horseracing Authority, The Jockey Club, and individual racecourses have all committed to various improvements in the name of 'welfare', however abuses, injuries and deaths persist.



When Gold Dancer fell at Aintree in 2026 he carried on running despite the fact that he suffered a painful and fatal injury. Horses don't run because they enjoy it, they run through the pain because they're trained to with a whip.

Horse abuses, injuries and deaths in 2025



254+

Horses killed due to racing on UK and Irish courses.



641

Uses of the whip broke BHA restrictions.



811

Thoroughbred horses slaughtered in England.



What can we do to end horse racing?



Never bet on horse racing



Never attend horse racing events



Take and share our anti-racing pledge



Ask your MP to support a ban



Support the charities who rescue horses from the racing industry such as Hillside Animal Sanctuary and Springwood Sanctuary.

Horses aren't the only animals who the public are often shocked to see in slaughterhouses.

Find out about the slaughter of newborn calves at:
animalaid.org.uk/dairy/



**Scan me to
learn more**



The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1AW
01732 364546 • info@animalaid.org.uk • www.animalaid.org.uk

@AnimalAid /AnimalAid @animalaid_uk

Animal Aid exposes and campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle.
Registered in the UK as Animal Abuse Injustice and Defence Society, Company No. 01787309.

Photo credits: © Georgina Weston Photography, Reuters-Peter Cziborra and Alamy.