

ANNUAL REPORT

Victims of British and Irish Horse Racing

Whip offences, deaths & slaughter — 2025

Contents

- 01** Introduction & Annual Summary
- 02** Whip Breaches
- 03** Deaths on British & Irish Racecourses
- 04** Slaughter
- 05** Remembering the Victims
- 06** Ireland & Year on Year Comparison
- 07** Animal Aid's Campaigning



Introduction

This report documents the systemic exploitation of horses within the **British and Irish racing industries**.

Each year, thousands of horses experience harm, suffering and abuse within a system designed for profit. Horses are gentle individuals with emotional lives, social bonds, and a desire to live free from harm.

Annual Summary

254

Total horses killed due to racing.

154

In the UK.
(110 Jump / 44 Flat)

100

In Ireland.

641

Total whip abuses recorded across 515 incidents.

811

Weatherby's passport horses* slaughtered in England.

66

British.

745

Irish.



* A Weatherby's horse passport is an official identification document issued by Weatherbys that provides verified pedigree, identity, ownership, and veterinary records for horses, particularly Thoroughbreds. It is legally required, ensures traceability, and is essential for racing, breeding, and welfare compliance.

Whip Breaches

In 2025, **641 whip rule breaches** were recorded across **515 racing incidents**.

Many incidents contained multiple types of abuse, including exceeding the maximum number of strikes allowed, striking above the permitted height, and failing to give horses time to respond.

In March 2025 jockey Bradley Gibb whipped Crocodile Lounge **8 times** above the permitted level. The penalty for this assault was a disqualification and a £400 fine.

Regulatory penalties were minimal:

2,588

Suspension days issued (avg. 4 days per breach)

20

Jockeys sent for additional training

£2,900

Total fines

12

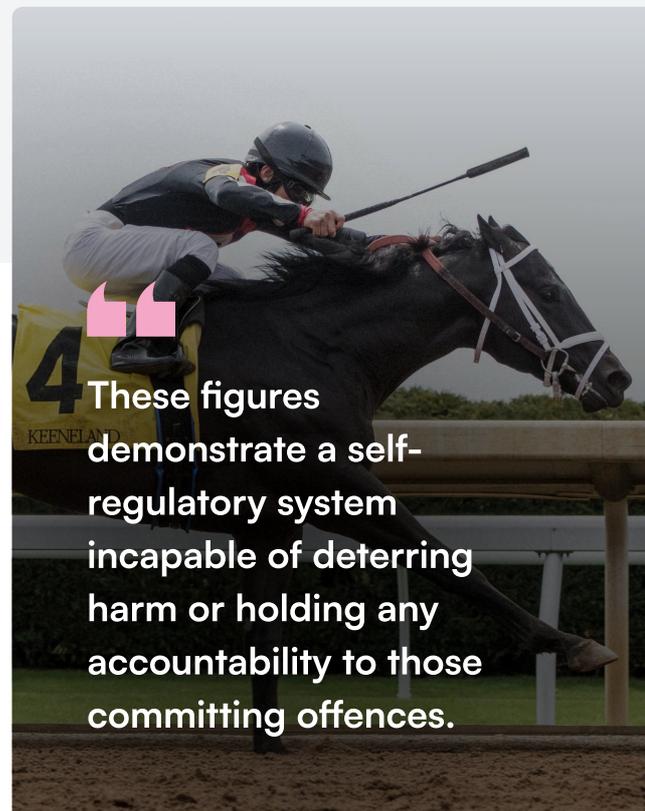
Were referred to the Judicial Panel

Repeat offenders (6 breaches each):

- Sean Levey
- Nicola Currie
- Marco Ghiani
- Jordan Williams

Only **£2,900** in fines were issued across the entire year.

- This equates to **£4.52 per breach**
- Suspensions averaged just **four days**
- The BHA referred almost **no cases** for meaningful discipline
- Repeat offenders continued riding with minimal interruption



These figures demonstrate a self-regulatory system incapable of deterring harm or holding any accountability to those committing offences.

Deaths on British Racecourses

A total of **154 horses were killed** on British racecourses in 2025.

Deaths occurred across **50** racecourses, with the worst performing being:

- **Southwell** — 9 deaths (5 Flat / 4 Jumps)
- **Worcester** — 8 deaths
- **Chepstow** — 8 deaths (1 Flat / 7 Jumps)

Causes included broken legs, internal injuries, collapses, and catastrophic falls. Deaths continue to be a predictable and systemic feature of the racing industry.

Deaths on Irish Racecourses

Ireland recorded **100 deaths due to racing in 2025.**

Deaths occurred on **24** racecourses, with the worst performing being:

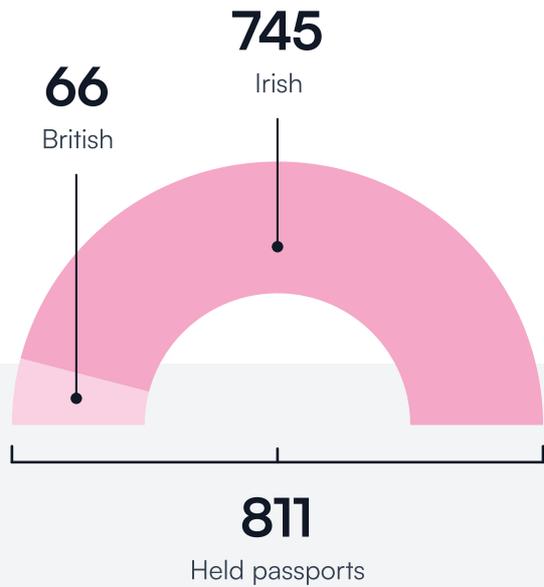
- **Galway** — 11 deaths
- **Leopardstown** — 9 deaths
- **Punchestown** — 9 deaths

This is the first time Animal Aid includes a dedicated Irish section, reflecting the scale of harm across the entire racing industry on both sides of the Irish Sea.

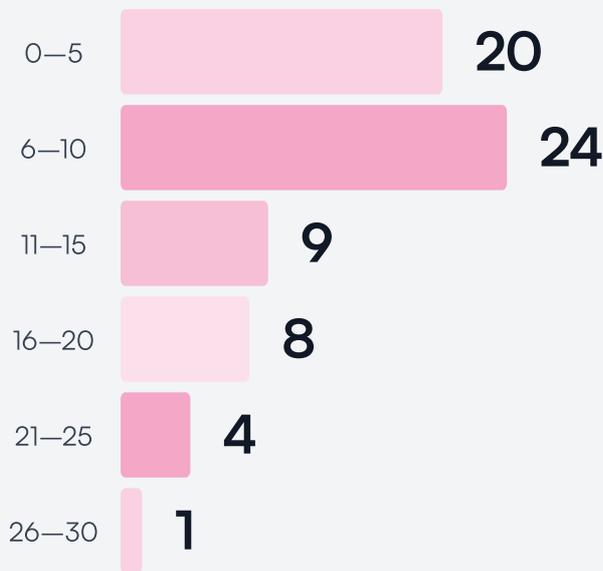


Slaughter

In licensed English slaughterhouses, **1,962 horses were killed** in 2025.



British horses — age at slaughter:

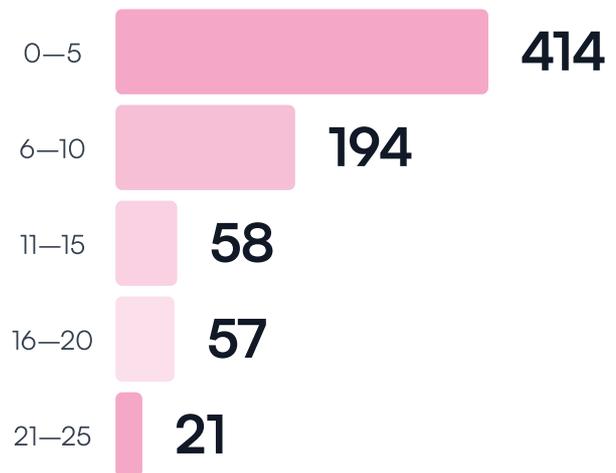


Our investigation, which took place between October 2019 and February 2020 inside a UK abattoir, uncovered the stark reality for horses and ponies who are no longer wanted in our society. The majority of the horses were killed for meat, destined to be sold for human consumption abroad.

[WATCH THE INVESTIGATION](#)



Irish horses — age at slaughter:



Remembering the Victims



Siberian Star by Healy Racing Photos.

Siberian Star

Siberian Star was **whipped three times above the permitted level** across two races in January and April 2025, both with the same rider, Shane Fenlon, and was then **killed on the track** at Cartmel on 26th May. Shane Fenelon went on to commit another whip abuse in July and is still riding today.



Celebre d'Allen by Healy Racing Photos.



Lexington Knight by Richard Hannon Racing.

Lexington Knight (IRE)

Lexington Knight (IRE) was the **most whip abused horse of the year**, having suffered whip abuse in three races — all by the same jockey, Thomas Greatrex. Lexington Knight has not been seen on a course since his last race on 7th August 2025.

Celebre d'Allen

Celebre d'Allen **collapsed after the final fence** in the 2025 Grand National, having been pushed on despite clearly losing ground. The jockey continued riding when the horse “had no more to give,” issuing only a 10-day suspension, a penalty that allowed him to return to racing within weeks. Celebre d'Allen **died two days later** after his condition deteriorated.

Ireland

Animal Aid's expanded remit now includes Irish fatalities and harm data.

With **100** deaths in 2025 and more than **700** Irish registered horses sent to slaughter in England, the Irish racing industry remains tightly interwoven with the British system of exploitation. The lack of transparency in Ireland mirrors that in Britain: without independent oversight, horses continue to be harmed without accountability.

Year on Year Comparison

Category	2024	2025	Trend
Whip abuses	557	641	 Rising, +15% YoY
Slaughter	598	811	 Rising, +36% YoY
UK on-course deaths	214	154	 Lower, YoY
Ireland on-course deaths	—	100	Newly included data

Despite fewer recorded British racecourse deaths in 2025, these figures reflect only the cases we have been able to access and manually verify.

The overall pattern of harm is clear and remains deeply concerning, with **sharp increases** in horses whipped, horses sent to slaughter, and the number of young horses killed.

Animal Aid's Campaigning

Horse Death Watch (UK & Ireland)

Our year-round Horse Death Watch platform documents **every death Animal Aid have recorded and verified** on British and Irish racecourses, naming each horse and restoring their dignity by recognising them as individuals whose lives mattered.

This public record brings transparency where the industry withholds information, striving to ensure that no horse's death goes unnoticed or unacknowledged.

[VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)

2026 — Year of the Horse: Celebrating Individuality and Freedom

In 2026, Animal Aid will **expand its campaign** to celebrate the individuality, agency and emotional depth of horses.



We will:

- **Centre horses** as unique beings with personalities, friendships and preferences
- **Share stories** that highlight their inner lives — not their utility to humans
- **Encourage public participation** through actions, storytelling, and volunteer engagement
- **Promote animal freedom** as a core principle: horses have the right to live without exploitation
- **Amplify survivor narratives** and honour those killed in racing and slaughter

The Year of the Horse will unite campaigning, storytelling and public mobilisation to push for meaningful, lasting change.