

NEW ZEALAND  
THOROUGHBRED **RACING**



PUREI HŌIHO NĀTI O AOTEAROA



# 2022 THOROUGHBRED WELFARE STRATEGY UPDATE

# VISION FOR THOROUGHBRED WELFARE

The concept of 'A Good Life' is central to NZTR's strategy. We recognise that our horses are sentient and understand that their individual welfare needs matter. To have a good life on a day-to-day basis and over their lifetimes, our Thoroughbreds must not only have their basic needs met, but they must also have positive and rewarding experiences that matter to them. In addition to being cared for in a manner that supports good health, providing opportunities for preferences in their diet, about how they engage with their environment, with each other and people, can all contribute to a positive mental state and overall positive welfare.

Over a lifetime, to have a good life, these positive and rewarding experiences must outweigh negative experiences. By providing opportunities to have preferred experiences that are meaningful to our Thoroughbreds, we are on the way to enabling them to have a good life.

NZTR's initial 'Thoroughbred Welfare Review & Strategy' was undertaken and completed in 2017. It is both timely and necessary that a further review and update of NZTR's strategy for welfare of our Thoroughbreds be completed in 2022.

The concept of maintaining a positive reputation and enhancing the 'social licence' for Thoroughbred racing and breeding has been explicit in our strategy since 2016. To this end, NZTR will periodically undertake a comprehensive, objective, credible and transparent review of matters pertaining to Thoroughbred welfare and public understanding and perceptions of welfare in racing and breeding.

This document sets out our planned initiatives for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 racing seasons.

*'A Thoroughbred should be provided a good life, with the care and conditions that allow it to thrive and perform to its natural abilities.'*



# PERSPECTIVES

NZTR recognises that when considering animal welfare, there is great value in open minds and broad perspectives. We are grateful to the people and organisations that have contributed over the past months' in the development of this strategy.

A key stage of this current process was the 2022 Thoroughbred Welfare Forum which facilitated engagement with industry stakeholder groups and external bodies, among these: MPI, National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), RNZSPCA, equine veterinarians, NZ Equine Health Association, NZ Equine Research Foundation and the NZ Equine Veterinary Association. NZTR is grateful to the expert presenters and those that attended or otherwise provided their insights and feedback.

NZTR has also reviewed the strategies and initiatives undertaken by overseas racing jurisdictions to determine those that may be most relevant and beneficial in the New Zealand context. The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses and the principal racing authorities in the Australian states are extremely open and collaborative, enabling free sharing of ideas and resources.

Given its statutory responsibility to promote, and ensure compliance with expected standards of animal welfare, the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) is inherently close to NZTR in the planning and future conduct of NZTR's welfare initiatives that relate to Thoroughbreds while governed by the Rules of Racing for racing and breeding.



# OUR PLANS

In considering the various initiatives that have been prioritised, this document collates our current and planned initiatives into three pillars:

1. Welfare of horses in breeding, racing and training
2. Transition to 'second careers' and supporting the NZOTTB community
3. Data and traceability

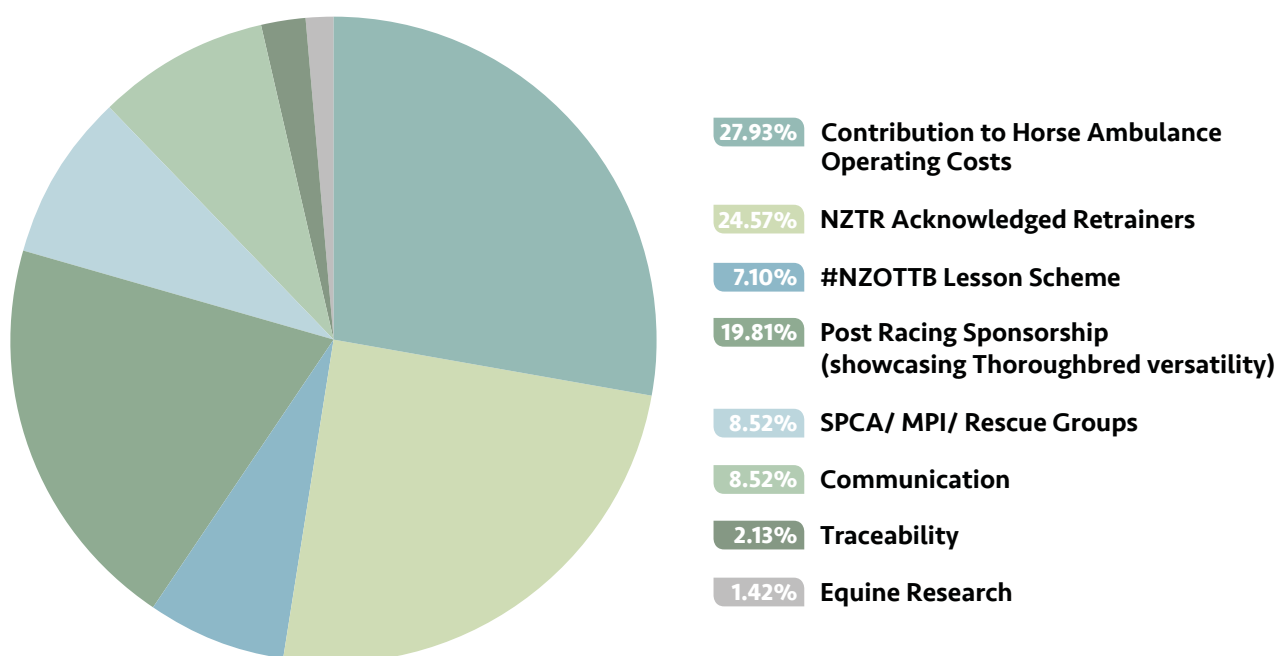
These initiatives will be supported by regular, transparent and effective communication. Transparently providing credible information, demonstrating good welfare practices, and showing improvements and new welfare enhancing initiatives, together assist in maintaining trust and minimises the potential for misunderstanding or mistruth.

## NZTR is conscious of our responsibility to progress and deliver on planned Thoroughbred welfare strategy and initiatives. Here's what we've done in recent years (2017-2022)

- ▶ Formalised arrangements with SPCA for NZTR liaison and financial support for neglected Thoroughbreds.
- ▶ Provision of a Thoroughbred welfare focused section of the NZTR website ([loveracing.nz](http://loveracing.nz)).
- ▶ Development and publication in 2019 of Thoroughbred Welfare Assessment Guidelines, anchored on the 'Five Domains' model of animal welfare. These NZ Welfare Assessment Guidelines were adopted as an international standard by the International Federation for Horseracing Authorities in 2020.
- ▶ Introduction of an additional set of Thoroughbred welfare rules in the Rules of Racing (see Part XIV – from page 140) which define obligations and duties of care upon the 'Accountable Person' of each registered Thoroughbred. These rules also provide powers of direction, compliance orders and possession orders if deemed necessary to protect the welfare of a registered Thoroughbred.
- ▶ Formation of a Jumps Review Panel enabling full consideration of any equine fatality in jumps racing.
- ▶ Created and have filled two new welfare focussed roles: 'Thoroughbred Welfare Officer' and 'Horse Traceability Liaison Officer'.
- ▶ Provided support to the establishment of the NZ Horse Ambulance Trust, assisted the governance, operations and supported of fundraising of \$1.3m for the deployment of a national fleet of nine horse ambulances.
- ▶ Establishment in 2020 of annual meetings of the Thoroughbred Welfare Forum, which brings together and enables insight and discussion of welfare topics among Thoroughbred sector representatives, veterinarians, animal welfare experts and government representatives. A summary of the 2022 feedback from participants is provided in the following section.

## *'NZTR is focused on meaningful welfare outcomes and is conscious of the need for accountability for our spend of the 1% Levy...'*

- ▶ The recording of equine raceday veterinary inspections moved to an APP, from the previous method of paper form and manual spreadsheet input (note: HRNZ led this initiative).
- ▶ Establishment in 2021 and the ongoing support of a network of NZTR Acknowledged Retrainers.
- ▶ Introduction of a 1% Thoroughbred Welfare Levy on all prizemoney from September 2021. This is a significant enabler, forecast to provide almost \$800k to Thoroughbred welfare initiatives in the current season. This is anticipated to be spent in the following proportions:



We note that in previous forecasts, there was provision for 'Welfare Monitoring and Compliance'. This is not provided for in future as it is confirmed that the RIB has the primary role in that function.

NZTR is focused on meaningful welfare outcomes and is conscious of the need for accountability for our spend of the 1% Levy through quarterly updates to participants and in audited NZTR Annual Reports. Any amounts unspent in a season will be retained in a 'Thoroughbred Welfare Reserve' to be applied to future projects or initiatives.

# 2022 THOROUGHBRED WELFARE FORUM

As noted in the introductory comments of this document, the Thoroughbred Welfare Forum provides objective and expert insight which is utilised by NZTR in the formation of this updated Thoroughbred Welfare Strategy.

NZTR provided a survey to the attendees and invited their perceptions and feedback on a range of Thoroughbred concerns or opportunities.

Alongside each identified welfare concern or opportunity, each Forum participant was asked to:

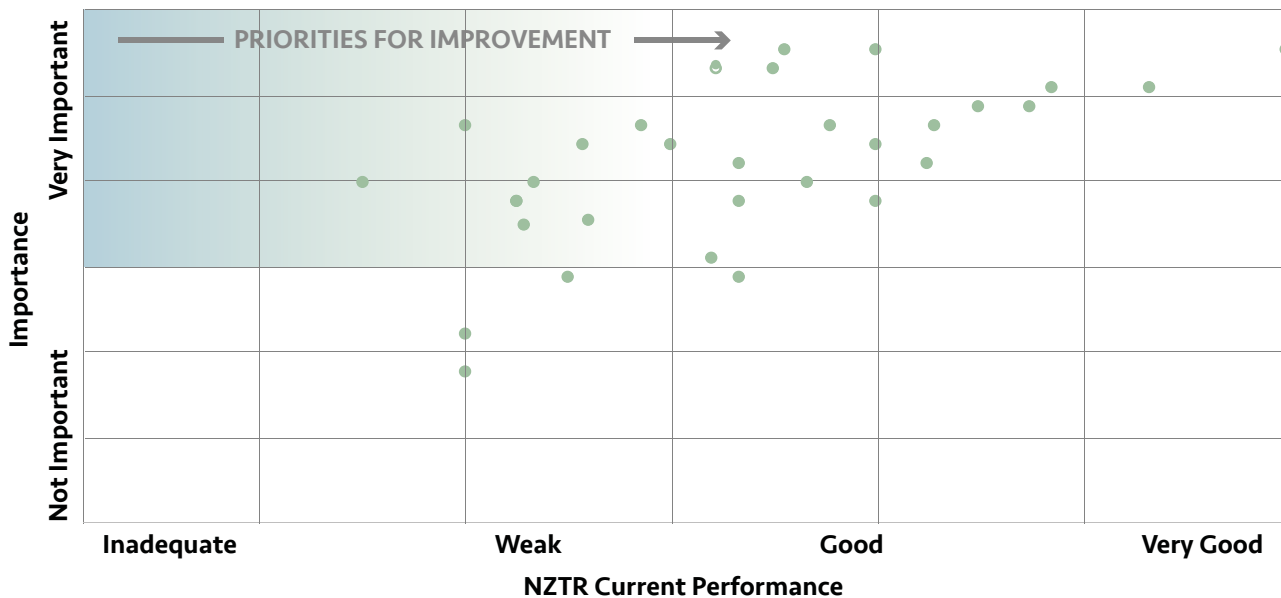
Rank each concern in terms of perceived importance:

- (1) Very Important;
- (2) Important;
- (3) Somewhat Important; or
- (4) Not Important.

Rank their perception of NZTR's current performance, as either:

- (1) Very Good;
- (2) Good;
- (3) Weak;
- (4) Inadequate/Nil; or
- (NA) Unable to judge.

Thoroughbred Welfare Concerns or Opportunities



From the chart on the previous page, the areas for greatest attention emerge as those that are noted as 'Important & NZTR not doing well' are (ranked in order of greatest perceived need for improvement):

1. Establishment of a Mortality Review Panel.
2. Possible shortfall in the number of Equine Veterinarians (noting that this is an international and cross sector issue that is already a focus of the Ministry for Primary Industries, Veterinary Council of NZ, NZ Veterinary Assn and Massey University).
3. NZTR / RIB monitoring of welfare of horses in training activities (traceability/treatments).
4. Extension of NZTR Traceability to include retired Thoroughbreds.
5. Horse carcass disposal.
6. Limb recovery / pathology.
7. Controlling or better regulating the retirement of Hong Kong racehorses to NZ.
8. Development of a practical Thoroughbred welfare assessment tool with observable baseline measures of welfare.
9. RIB frequency and practical basis of Stable Inspections.
10. Development of education resources for good welfare practices to horse owners including owners of retired Thoroughbreds.

Some of these are interrelated (1 & 6; and 3, 8, 9 & 10), meaning that the various areas in need of improvement are not overwhelming.

Also from the chart, there were 18 areas that were identified as very important and that NZTR was perceived as doing well. The top ten of these are (ranked in perceived order of importance):

1. Individual Forum participants perception of NZTR's work to ensure that racing maintains 'Social Licence'.
2. Comprehensive Traceability of Thoroughbreds.
3. Provision of Horse Ambulance services.
4. NZTR Thoroughbred welfare communications generally.
5. Investment in track surfaces.
6. NZTR's development of Thoroughbred Welfare Guidelines, and associated amendments to the Rules of Racing.
7. Reporting of racing fatalities.
8. NZTR's 'Safety Net' arrangements to help support neglected Thoroughbreds.
9. Recording and analysis of raceday veterinary examinations.
10. Regulation of whip use in racing.

While we have done well in these areas, there remains more to do, whether in sustaining current efforts or in the consideration and launch of further new initiatives which are indicated in this document.

# OUR KEY PLANS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS



## FOCUS 1 – ANIMAL WELFARE

- ▶ With RIB, develop objective measurable standards of Thoroughbred welfare across the horses' lifetime.
- ▶ With RIB, use newly developed measurable standards of Thoroughbred welfare to identify matters for improvement.
- ▶ Formation and operation of Mortality Review Panel.

## FOCUS 2 – DATA

- ▶ Continue to enhance data reporting of various metrics relating to Thoroughbred welfare across breeding, training, racing and Thoroughbred traceability. As data robustness is established and analysed, then NZTR can be increasing transparent and report progress against objective KPI targets.

## FOCUS 3 – EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

- ▶ Demonstrate accountability for the NZTR initiatives funded by our 1% levy on prizemoney by regularly and transparently communicating to our interested audiences, including the provision of robust data.
- ▶ Facilitate education for those involved with Thoroughbreds, with a specific focus on owners of retired racehorses.

## CONTINUAL PROGRESS

- ▶ Post the implementation of NZTR's new information technology system (SNS), educate and ensure that trainers and breeders provide necessary updates of horse location, treatments, injuries, ownership and retirement on a timely and accurate basis.
- ▶ Further develop the network of NZTR Acknowledged Retrainers and develop connections with the community of owners of retired Thoroughbreds.
- ▶ With the RIB, facilitate comprehensive limb recovery for x-ray & CT analysis, and the establishment of a Mortality Review Panel.





# HORSES IN BREEDING, RACING & TRAINING

These initiatives are an increment to the many established welfare measures that support the welfare of horses in racing such as various longstanding Rules, Policies (including regulation of therapeutic and prohibited substances) and practices (stewarding and raceday veterinary examinations). For clarity, this includes horses from the period from foaling until retired from racing.

Additionally, continued significant investments in track surfaces made by NZTR and clubs aim to produce improvements in track reliability and consistency. In the 2022 Statement of Intent, NZTR has committed between \$2.5M to \$3.0M for track surface investment for each of the three years to July 2025.

## The planned initiatives are:

- ▶ Summary examination reports are provided by raceday veterinarians and maintained in a database developed by HRNZ and periodically provided to Massey University for epidemiological research. NZTR will work with HRNZ and the RIB in the development of operational reporting from the database for more timely review of data would be a necessary enhancement. (Q3 2022/23)
- ▶ With cooperation of raceday veterinarians and the NZ Horse Ambulance Trust, establish a more comprehensive enablement of Massey University pathological analysis (x-ray and CT) of any precursor bone damage or any other indicative cause where euthanasia is required for racehorses as a result of lower limb fractures in competition. Though it would be desirable to conduct pathology of lower limb fractures in training, it is expected to be conducted ad hoc as practical issues apply. This work will be supported by communications to owners and connections of horses to increase understanding of the objectives and importance of this research. (Q1 2022/23)

Establish and support the responsibilities of a Mortality Review Panel, made up of NZTR and RIB appointees, responsible for investigating and reporting on any raceday equine fatality (with potential that the Panel's remit be later extended to include other serious injuries). Such fatalities are often multi-factorial, and through interrogation of cases/data over time, it may be possible to ascertain contributory patterns, leading to improved prevention measures. (Q2 2022/23)

- ▶ Undertake initial research and analysis of wearable technology that can indicate irregularities in a horse's gait or cardiovascular system. (Q3 2022/23)
- ▶ In consultation with the RIB and the NZ Trainers' Association, develop objective and measurable welfare standards for racehorses which in certain areas exceed the standards required under legislation and relevant codes of welfare. (Q2 2022/23)
- ▶ In consultation with NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, develop guidelines for breeding horses and progeny which in certain areas exceed the standards required under legislation and relevant codes of welfare. (Q4 2023/24)

*‘Recognising the importance of transparent measures, the initiatives will enable additional analytics and future reporting of raceday and training incidents.’*

- ▶ Use the developed welfare standards to educate trainers on minimum and ‘best practice’ standards, and via a strategic approach to planning RIB stable inspections. Whilst an educative approach is intended, if circumstances require, the RIB is empowered to invoke penalties and NZTR will not shy from revoking involvement in the industry. (Q3 2023/24)
- ▶ Educate and enable persons involved with Thoroughbreds to understand the welfare benefits of maintaining the training and treatment history for each horse. Alongside NZ Trainers’ Association, facilitate and mandate consistent recording including: each horse’s location and whether or not in active training; use of medication; surgical treatments. (Q3 2023/24)
- ▶ Regarding the proper use of the whip in racing, maintain close oversight of evolving international policies and the enforcement of recently tightened regulation in New Zealand. Also through RIB referrals to the NZTR Rider Review Panel, provide tuition to jockeys with the aim of reducing the number of whip infringements to a lower annual target (TBC). (Ongoing)
- ▶ Work with NZ Trainers’ Association to develop policies and reporting systems for consistent recording and reporting to NZTR of significant equine injuries in training. (Q4 2023/24)
- ▶ Work with other agencies to develop initiatives that may better ensure the sustainable capacity of future workforce of equine veterinarians. (commence 2022/23)
- ▶ Guide and support research that may lead to improved equine health and reduction of equine injuries. Support the dissemination of research findings to breeders and trainers. (Ongoing)
- ▶ Educate people involved with horses about contemporary animal welfare science and training methods. Encourage use of empathetic handling and care including best practice techniques of graduated learning. This helps best ensure that the horses will be compliant and responsive to training cues, which also is a foundation for transition to post-race careers. (Ongoing)

Recognising the importance of transparent measures, the above noted initiatives will enable additional analytics and future reporting of raceday and training incidents. These will in turn lead to well-defined KPI targets and measures of success which may provide basis for future research about possible epidemiologic factors that lead to injuries in training or in racing. Relevant and reportable metrics must be developed by mid-2024.

**KEY:**

- ✓ Principally responsible
- ✓ Key support / partner

		NZTR	Racing Integrity Board	Trainers	Breeders	Owners	Jockeys	Acknowledged Retainers	Veterinarians	Massey University &/or NZERF
<b>HORSES IN BREEDING RACING &amp; TRAINING</b>										
Raceday vet examination database reporting	Q3 2022/23	✓	✓						✓	
Pathological analysis of euthanased horses	Q1 2022/23		✓						✓	✓
Mortality Review Panel	Q2 2022/23	✓	✓						✓	✓
Wearable technology	Q3 2022/23	✓							✓	
Objective measurable standards of Thoroughbred welfare	Q2 2022/23	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Welfare guidelines for the breeding of Thoroughbreds	Q4 2023/24	✓			✓					
Stable inspections using measurable welfare standards	Q3 2023/24	✓	✓	✓						
Horse location; use of medication; surgical treatments	Q3 2023/24	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Whip regulation	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Injuries in training	Q4 2023/24	✓	✓	✓						
Research of equine health and injuries.	Ongoing	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓





## TRANSITION TO 'SECOND CAREERS' AND SUPPORTING THE NZ OFF THE TRACK THOROUGHBRED (NZOTTB) COMMUNITY

Research suggests that rather than retirement into a paddock, the best future for sound and manageable retired racehorses is an active athletic life, as such ridden horses are more widely sought after and likely to be promptly referred for specialist care if needed.

NZTR has made significant advances in the past decade in showcasing the versatility of Thoroughbreds, supporting the transition of racehorses from the track to their 'second careers.' NZTR has also provided financial and expert support to the RNZSPCA on rare occasions where Thoroughbreds are found in neglect. Our regard of our horse's as individuals is aptly demonstrated through the personal stories shared on our 'Wall of Fame' of retired racehorses, and through promotion of equine traceability ambassadors.

However, we are excited by the additional opportunities that lie ahead. NZTR intends to undertake the following:

- ▶ Work with the NZ Trainers' Association and the NZ Racehorse Owners' Federation to educate trainers and owners on animal welfare, on their 'duty of care' for retirement of Thoroughbreds, and on best practice principles in planning and enabling a horse's initial stage of transition to its 'second career'. (Q3 2022/23)
- ▶ Further expand the national network of NZTR Acknowledged Retainers, and work with these partners to determine future enhancements to NZTR's support to them, whether through clinics, grants, or other support. (Ongoing)

Provide annual workshop clinics for NZTR Acknowledged Retainers, to provide networking opportunities and help ensure that they have the correct skillset and resources to accurately assess and rehome NZOTTB horses in such a way that as far as possible safeguard their future welfare. (Ongoing)

- ▶ Obtain feedback from NZOTTB owners who have bought horses via NZTR Acknowledged retainers, and otherwise monitor and audit the network and with knowledge gained, support re-trainers to ensure the system remains relevant, trusted and beneficial. (Q3 2022/23)
- ▶ Introduction of NZTR subsidies for horse and rider clinics for sporthorse or recreational owners of retired Thoroughbreds. (Q4 2022/23)
- ▶ Collaborate with the Hong Kong Jockey Club to better regulate and oversee the retirement of ex-Hong Kong racehorses to New Zealand. (Q2 2022/23)

- ▶ Continue to develop established relationships with Equestrian Sports NZ, NZ Polo and NZ Showhorse Council that showcase the talent and versatility of Thoroughbreds. (Ongoing)
- ▶ With the assistance of recognised ambassadors, launch a '#NZOTTB Community' to build a new and engaged audience of owners of retired Thoroughbreds with whom we can develop, support, educate and reward. (Ongoing)
- ▶ Gain increased understanding of the human benefits and assurance of horse welfare via investigation of opportunities to support or develop programmes involving Thoroughbreds in equine therapy. (Q3 2023/24)
- ▶ Though not a pure welfare issue, the disposal of horses may be a matter of public or environmental concern. To address this, NZTR will collaborate with the NZ Equine Health Association in considering alternate methods of carcass disposal. (Q4 2022/23)

Our measures of success will be the conduct of the above initiatives, and in the collation and communication of data that evidences the transition of Thoroughbreds from racing to their second careers.

**KEY:**

- ✓ Principally responsible
- ✓ Key support / partner

		NZTR	Racing Integrity Board	Trainers	Breeders	Owners	Jockeys	Acknowledged Retainers	Veterinarians	Massey University &/or NZERF
<b>TRANSITION TO 'SECOND CAREERS' AND SUPPORTING THE NZ OFF THE TRACK THOROUGHBRED (NZOTTB) COMMUNITY</b>										
Educate best practice and 'duty of care' for retirement of Thoroughbreds	Q3 2022/23	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Develop, monitor and enhance the network of NZTR Acknowledged Retainers	Q3 2022/23	✓						✓		
Subsidise horse and rider clinics for owners of NZOTTB's	Q4 2022/23	✓						✓		
Better regulate the retirement of racehorses from Hong Kong to NZ	Q2 2022/23	✓								
Develop and engage the community of owners of retired racehorses (NZOTTB's)	Ongoing	✓						✓		
Investigate and support programmes involving Thoroughbreds in equine therapy	Q4 2023/24	✓								

# 3

## DATA AND TRACEABILITY

Traceability alone does not guarantee positive welfare outcomes, but it is very difficult to have an effective welfare regime without proper traceability.

NZTR's stated goal is 'comprehensive traceability' of Thoroughbreds from birth until the earlier of death or retirement so that NZTR may speak positively and assertively about the how well our horses are looked after, including their transition from racing to their 'second careers'.

As noted in context of the 2022 Thoroughbred Welfare Forum, though outside NZTR's regulatory jurisdiction, there are also welfare and data benefits in collecting any available information of retired horse location and ownership, so such information is included in our welfare plans. This is addressed in points 2-4 below.

Though a retirement rule has been a requirement since 2015, until 2019, participant compliance had been low, not helped by a manual paper-based system for submission of returns.

In early 2020, NZTR provided an improved system for submission of forms and dedicated a staff member to a role responsible for gathering returns for all horses foaled since 2012. This has yielded good results both in terms of resolving past omissions, but also in encouraging more timely compliance with reporting requirements. However, the data is yet to meet expectations of timeliness and accuracy required to enable informative analysis of NZ Thoroughbred population data (including impacts of international trade), which in turn will aide estimations of the supply and demand for retired racehorses.

NZTR's planned 2023 introduction of the SNS IT system for breeding and racing will provide simple capability for filing of online returns, better enabling trainers and breeders to complete such returns on a timely basis. While 100% compliance is the obvious goal, NZTR will establish target rates of compliance of traceability filing requirements.

NZTR intends to undertake the following:

- ▶ Targeting the period after the implementation of the SNS IT system, work with the NZ Trainers' Association, NZ Breeders' Association and the NZ Racehorse Owners' Federation to initiate concerted communications that raise both awareness and compliance, to meet set KPI targets for timely and accurate filing requirements for:
  - Death or retirement returns;
  - Changes of Ownership; and
  - Horse location and whether in work or spelling. (Ongoing)
- ▶ With assistance of Equestrian Sports NZ, NZ Polo and NZ Showhorse Council, gather and analyse information of retired Thoroughbreds in equestrian competition. (Ongoing)

- ▶ With a similar aim regarding lifetime traceability, provide support and endorsement to the NZ Equine Health Association for its aim of developing an all breeds equine traceability database for biosecurity purposes. (Ongoing)
- ▶ Through intended development of a '#NZOTTB Community' develop mechanisms whereby owners of retired Thoroughbreds can provide updates to NZTR of the horse's current ownership and location. (Q4 2023/24)
- ▶ With increasingly complete and accurate data and with reference to relevant peer-reviewed academic research and population modelling, develop and share insights of the Thoroughbred population through published annual updates. (Ongoing)

### Measures of Success

Regarding NZTR's stated aim of comprehensive traceability of horses from foaling to the earlier of death or retirement from racing and breeding, for each foal crop, the aim is to:

- ▶ Be able to accurately report in aggregate for each foal crop on an annual basis, understand whether horses are: yet to race; trialling; racing; exported; breeding; retired; or dead.
- ▶ Upon death or retirement, the principal reason for this is understood and reported.

#### KEY:

- ✓ Principally responsible
- ✓ Key support / partner

		NZTR	Racing Integrity Board	Trainers	Breeders	Owners	Jockeys	Acknowledged Retainers	Veterinarians	Massey University &/or NZERF
<b>DATA AND TRACEABILITY</b>										
Compliance - Death or Retirement [Rule 417]	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Compliance - Stable Returns [Rule 326(1)]	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓						
Compliance - Breeding [Stud Book Reg 4(2)]	Ongoing	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Compliance - Ownership & Leases [Rule 423]	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Compliance - Horse location change [Rule 1405]	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Gather and analyse information of retired Thoroughbreds in equestrian competition	Ongoing	✓								
Enable recreational owners of NZOTTB's update horse's current ownership and location	Q4 2023/24	✓								
Develop and share insights of the Thoroughbred population through published annual updates	Ongoing	✓								

# 4

## TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

As noted, the concept of ‘social licence’ is important to racing’s continuing relevance to society and in attracting future audiences and for people choosing to commence and develop their careers in our industry.

Maintaining excellent welfare standards and finding ways of continually improving is critically important. To maintain and enhance our social licence we also require robust and transparent data, progress against measurable objectives, and accessible and thoughtful communication.

Therefore, increasingly regular and transparent communications remain an essential component of our welfare strategy. The challenges are that there are diverse topics, and different industry, public or political audiences, each of which have people with varied preferences for receiving information.

NZTR intends: (unless noted, intentions are ‘Ongoing’)

- ▶ Planning, resourcing and providing communication that serves our various audiences.
- ▶ To work with the NZ Equine Research Foundation, Massey University and the NZ Equine Health Association to consider and develop relevant and practical education on horse welfare topics, both to those within the industry and to owners of retired Thoroughbreds.
- ▶ Developing and implementing suitable ‘continuing professional development’ education opportunities for racing’s participants, with a focus on equine skills, Thoroughbred welfare standards, and other equine welfare topics.
- ▶ Providing quarterly updates on our Thoroughbred Welfare Strategy initiatives.
- ▶ Increasingly complementing our communication with relevant robust and timely data and KPI targets.
- ▶ Telling relatable and compelling stories of our people and horses, that give an appreciation of the bond and commitment between horse and human.
- ▶ Facilitating opportunities for interested public to gain a better understanding of breeding and racing activities.

**KEY:**

- ✓ Principally responsible
- ✓ Key support / partner

		NZTR	Racing Integrity Board	Trainers	Breeders	Owners	Jockeys	Acknowledged Retrainers	Veterinarians	Massey University &/or NZERF
<b>TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION</b>										
Develop and implement Thoroughbred welfare CPD for licenceholders	Ongoing	✓		✓	✓					
Education of Thoroughbred Welfare topics, with focus on owners of retired Thoroughbreds	Ongoing	✓						✓	✓	
Guide and support equine research	Ongoing	✓							✓	✓
Regular and transparent quarterly communication relating to Thoroughbred Welfare strategy initiatives	Ongoing	✓								
Further develop and transparently report on timely basis, various data and KPI targets	Ongoing	✓	✓							



# CONCLUSION, & COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY

This document is a touchstone for NZTR's commitment to continually improving and upholding high standards of welfare for our Thoroughbreds.

NZTR is not accountable alone. Our commitment is one that we also confer on breeders, trainers, jockeys, owners and all other participants involved in Thoroughbred training, racing and breeding, each of whom must share that same aspiration.

NZTR (and where relevant the RIB) will hold racing and breeding participants accountable for increasingly high expectations for the care of our horses and for compliance with more timely and accurate information requirements.

NZTR does however hold itself accountable to our participants to ensure that our strategy is planned and consulted upon with thoughtfulness and undertaken with good effect.

NZTR's accountability, on behalf of the industry and participants, extends to ensuring that relevant government agencies and animal welfare organisations remain appropriately and regularly appraised of our initiatives and by providing accurate relevant data.

As noted earlier in this document, NZTR is also accountable to our participants to ensure and assure that the 1% Thoroughbred Welfare Levy is invested appropriately in the most effective ways possible. We will provide this accountability through the NZTR Annual Reports and via quarterly communications.

***Questions or feedback on this document and NZTR's strategy can be directed to:***

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Particular recognition is provided to:

Racing Integrity Board

Ministry for Primary Industries

Harness Racing NZ

RNZSPCA

NZ Equine Health Association

NZ Trainers' Association

NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Association

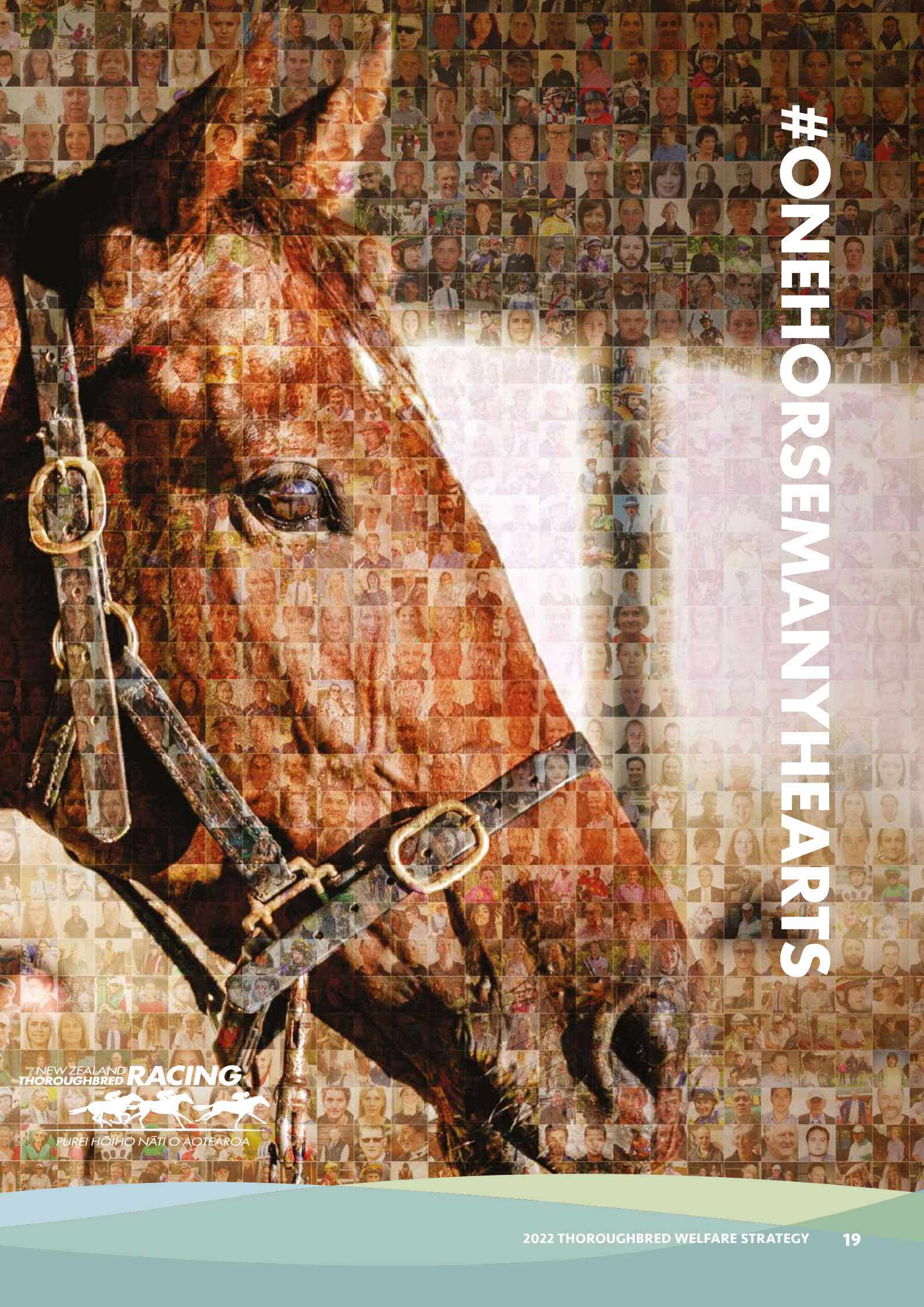
Professor Chris Rogers (Massey University)

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# #ONEHORSEMANYHEARTS



NEW ZEALAND  
THOROUGHBRED **RACING**



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