



THE BRITISH RACING SCHOOL

Equine Welfare Policy Statement – QF002

Introduction

Our horses are essential to the work of The British Racing School (BRS) and must be handled with awareness and consideration at all times. The health and wellbeing of all our horses is vital to the delivery of a positive experience to our trainees.

In addition, as the leading provider of education and training to the horseracing industry, we recognise the importance of maintaining the highest equine-welfare standards in all that we do and embedding the values that underpin these standards in all that we teach.

The BRS is a member of the National Equine Welfare Council and complies with the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines published by the National Equine Welfare Council. These guidelines can be found in full via the link below:

<http://www.newc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Equine-Brochure-09.pdf>

In addition, the BRS is committed to working with others in the horseracing industry to deliver the Horse Welfare Board Strategic Plan 2020-2024:

http://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/Welfare/HWB/WELFARE_STRATEGY.pdf

This policy statement further outlines our commitment to horse welfare.

Policy Principles

The positions of QA Manager and Yard Instructor are filled by employees with significant horse-care experience in a professional setting. The QA Manager and Yard Instructors undertake CPD appropriate to their roles and responsibilities in relation to horse welfare.

Horses are not to be used for any BRS activity until they have been fully assessed by the QA Manager and the Duty Yard Instructor. Horses should be sound, in appropriate body condition and should not display any signs of stress. Veterinary advice is sought where there is any doubt.

There is no maximum age limit for BRS horses. However, general fitness, body condition, age and the presence of any medical or orthopaedic conditions is taken into consideration when allocating work to older horses.

All horses at the BRS receive an annual veterinary examination.

The BRS horses, our horse-care standards and routines, stable yards and other equine facilities are inspected weekly. The findings are recorded during our weekly yard meeting. Any actions needed are discussed with the relevant people and the process started to rectify the situation.

The BRS has a zero-blood policy. Should blood be seen anywhere on a horse, the animal must be removed from work and assessed by the QA Manager, Duty Yard Instructor or a vet immediately.

BRS horses receive high-quality routine care, including vaccination against Equine Influenza. All BRS horses are vaccinated in line with British Horseracing Authority guidelines.

BRS horses must not be used for more than two riding or lunging sessions per day and will have one day per week when they are not used for ridden sessions.

BRS horses will be turned out whenever possible and will have a minimum of four weeks per year when they are turned out for periods of at least a week and not used for training.

When a horse becomes unsuitable for use in the training activities undertaken by the BRS, the best interests of the horse are central to decisions taken over its future. All appropriate rehoming options are considered and in the event of euthanasia being considered, we will follow the BHA guidelines. These can be accessed via the link below:

https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/Welfare/HWB/EUTHANASIA_GUIDELINES.pdf

https://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/Welfare/HWB/DECISION_TREE.pdf

Any concerns regarding the welfare standards at the BRS generally, or the actions or behaviours of any individual at the BRS – be that members of staff, trainees, course delegates or visitors – should be reported immediately to the QA Manager, Duty Yard Instructor or CEO.

Position:
The Chief Executive

Signed:
AJ Braithwaite

Date
March 2025