

10 Reasons Why Your Brand Should Not Be Associated With Horse Racing

# This document highlights the main welfare issues associated with horse racing, issues that all those who support the industry should be made aware of.

It is intended to educate race day sponsors on the reality of what it is they are supporting and encourage them to consider the following:

- 1. Is the horse racing industry in line with the values of their company?
- 2. Is supporting the horse racing industry in line with their company's corporate social responsibility?
- 3. Does their company's sponsorship of horse racing make good business sense?

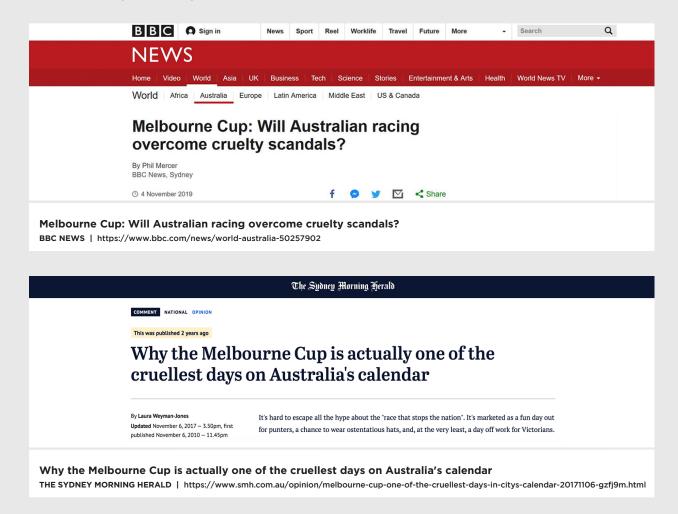
10 Reasons why your brand should not be associated with horse racing are listed below and explained in greater detail throughout the document.

1	Horse racing is losing its social licence
2	Separation & isolation
3	Instruments of cruelty are common practice in training and racing regimes
4	Wastage
5	Missing foals
6	Horses are left to starve
7	Deathwatch
8	The racing industry advocates for killing unwanted horses
9	Breeding regimes are cruel and unnatural for both mares and stallions

Jumps racing

## Horse racing is losing its social licence

The court of public opinion has demonstrated a slow but steady opposition to horse racing over the past decade.



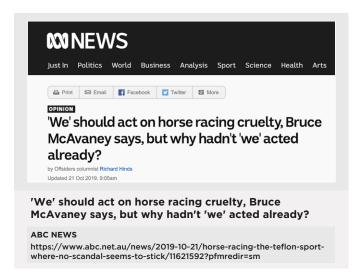
# Spring Carnival attendance has been in steady decline for the past 13 years. In fact, the 2019 Cup Carnival saw its lowest attendance since 1997

More here: https://bit.ly/3b4plTh

Growing opposition has gone into overdrive since the 2018 Melbourne Cup when Cliffsofmoher became the sixth horse to be killed at the event in as many years. His death kickstarted a public fury and media frenzy against the racing industry that has not let up. Barely a few weeks pass without another scandal, exposé or shocking revelation, forcing the racing industry into constant damage control.

Horse racing is increasingly coming under scrutiny by the general public, journalists, and even former and current industry participants, from commentator Bruce McAvaney 'We should act on horse racing cruelty says commentator Bruce McAvaney, but why hadn't we acted already?'

Through to top trainer Chris Waller 'Winx trainer says racing's social license at risk'





Associated brands are being called out and publicly shamed 'Myer faces social media backlash: shame on you' and 'Melbourne Cup sponsors face social media backlash'



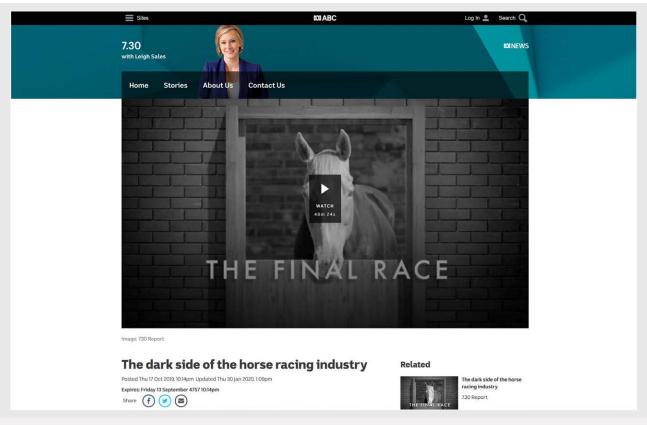


One third of City of Melbourne Councillors voted for the City to end their support and facilitation of the Cup Eve Parade and all other horse racing industry events.

Social commentator Mark McCrindle has stated that **aside from the growing awareness of questionable animal welfare practices in the horse racing industry, the Melbourne Cup was becoming increasingly 'on the nose' for young people opposed to gambling or excessive alcohol consumption, and to others who simply find the event irrelevant.** 

He added that more than half the workforce was now made up of Generations Y and Z - those born after 1980. "They don't have that same connection (to the Cup) or sense of tradition," he said. "They're the most culturally diverse generations we have ever had, and they also have their own social events - they don't need 'organised' social occasions."

2019 even saw high profile celebrities withdraw from attending the carnival. Although the biggest upset, it was not only **Taylor Swift** who pulled out of attending the Melbourne Cup. Celebrities **Lana Condor** and **Megan Gale** also cancelled their commitments.

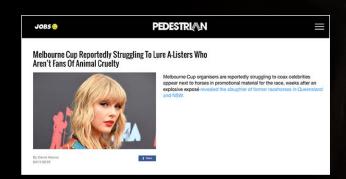


The Final Race
ABC 7:30 PROGRAM | WATCH HERE: https://youtu.be/Zp-ALoBRW20

After viewing brutal images of the routine slaughter of racehorses on the ABC's 7:30 program 'The Final Race', Prof Paul McGreevy from the University of Sydney, who is a riding instructor and veterinarian, stated "The Australian public shall not forget the vision of the use of electric shocks to the genitals and horses receiving multiple captive bolt shots to the head."

A raft of other celebrities and individuals expressed their opposition to horse racing, taking to Twitter with the hashtag **#NupToTheCup** which once again trended all day. Marketing Mag revealed **#NupToTheCup** was the third most common hashtag to be associated with **#MelbourneCup**.

### Celebrities say #NupToTheCup



Melbourne Cup Reportedly Struggling To Lure A-Listers Who Aren't Fans Of Animal Cruelty

#### DEDESTRIAN

https://www.pedestrian.tv/news/melbourne-cup-a-lister-animal-cruelty



Melbourne Cup regular Megan Gale pulls out after shocking doco reveals racehorse cruelty

#### NEWS.COM.AU

https://www.news.com.au/national/victoria/news/wed-love-them-melbourne-cup-carnival-protesters-invite-mining-conference-activists-to-join-in/news-story/055bab52312c48c5f7d71514b6828231



Taylor Swift cancels her controversial Melbourne Cup appearance

#### SBS NEWS

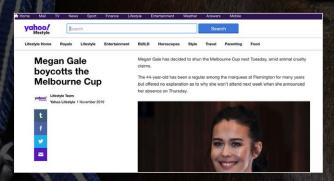
https://www.sbs.com.au/news/taylor-swift-cancels-her-controversial-melbourne-cup-appearance



**Celebities shunning Melbourne Cup** 

#### THE CANBERRA TIMES

https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6467748/celebrities-shunning-melbourne-cup/?cs=14231



Megan Gale boycotts the Melbourne Cup

#### YAHOO! LIFESTYLI

https://au.lifestyle.yahoo.com/megan-gale-boycotts-melbourne-cup-along-with-taylor-swift-and-other-celebrities-205750144.html



Taylor Swift cancels Melbourne Cup appearance after criticism

#### THE NEW DAILY

https://bit.ly/3fo3abp





#### Taylor Swift Cancels Melbourne Cup Performance, Animal Rights Activists Applaud

#### FORBES

https://www.forbes.com/sites/monicamercuri/2019/09/23/taylor-swift-cancels-melbourne-cup-performance-animal-rights-activists-applaud/#53eb8af6109c



**COINEWS** 

#### ABC NEWS

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-21/taylor-swift-pulls-out-of-2019-melbourne-cup-performance/11535952



### Taylor Swift pulls out of Melbourne Cup - but what was the real reason?

#### 7NEWS

https://7 news.com.au/entertainment/taylor-swift-pulls-out-of-melbourne-cup-c-465782



### Taylor Swift replaced by local singer at Melbourne Cup

#### THE AGE

https://www.theage.com.au/culture/music/taylor-swift-replaced-by-local-singers-at-melbourne-cup-20191105-p53716.html









#### **#NupToTheCup** on Twitter



Amanda Waters @rapidwaters87 - Nov 5, 2019
Said it so much better than I ever could @JacyntaKrakouer |
Happy to say I have never/will altend or place a bet...
As a clinician, I've seen how gambling impacts people's MH.
There's nothing glamorous about the suffering of horses.

■ Jacynta Krakouer @JacyntaKrakouer - Nov 4, 2019 #NupToTheCup is about more than horse racing. It's also about condemning shameful public drunkenness; it's about raising awareness that DV & assaults go thru the roof on #MelbourneCup Day; it's about retired horses being taken to the slaughterhouse @ the end of their career



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♡ 28





'Sad story': Rostropovich stable after finishing Cup with cracked pe... 



This is just so tragically predictable. Year after year we see the needless suffering of horses, yet nothing changes #NupToTheCup

III Nine News Melbourne (© @9NewsMelb · Nov 5, 2019 #BREAKING: Rostropovich who finished last in the #MelbourneCup, has been taken to Werribee equine clinic for an assessment on a suspected cracked peivis. More to come. #9News



5:02 PM · Nov 5, 2019 · Twitter Web App



222 Retweets 496 Likes

I used to be a member of Qld Turf Club. I have not missed a Melbourne Cup since 1979. However, almost 3 weeks ago I watched that 730 report- the episode disturbed me, particularly knowing how gentle horses natured are. Today I ate my lunch and then said #NuptotheCup

70 Retweets 411 Likes



The nation should stop the race.

"SavNunToTheCup #horseracing

The race that stops the nation? The nation should stop the race. I'M SAYING NUP TO THE CUP!



Sarah Morton @sarahmortoncopy · Nov 6, 2018
Animal cruelty? Check. Problem Gambling? Check. Binge Drinking? Check. Spike in reports of domestic violence? Check. #saynuptothecup



Rachel @Musichetta1832 · Nov 5, 2019

Quite honestly the fact we have a public holiday celebrating animal abuse and gambling is disgusting and I am ashamed to live in this state
#saynuptothecup #MelbourneCup2019



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The horse racing industry is in overdrive belitting & personally attacking anyone who advocates for animal welfare, because they know the tide is turning #NupToTheCup



How the Melbourne Cup came crashing do



Eve @league\_witheve · Nov 6, 2019
I grew up around horse racing & it's been a big part of my life, but this article makes me so incredibly sad.

It's all about winning & money, not one mention about what excessive whipping did to the horse.

Call me the fun police don't care, #NupToTheCup #MelbourneCup2019

2 7Sport @ @7Sport · Nov 6, 2019

Michael Walker finished the #MelbourneCup with a \$10,000 whipping fine, but says letting down his daughter "hit me the hardest".

7news.com.au/sport/horse-ra...

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Steve Williams @swillmedia • Oct 19, 2019
"Words cannot describe the horror of the whole appalling thing."
@Feter\_Fitz on the treatment of racehorses. I simply couldn't watch the
@abc/730 report, but brave for revealing these sick, cruel bastards.



Racing gone to the dogs in appalling self-sustaining circle of cruelty The nags? We never really thought about it and, if we did, we just assumed they were "put out to pasture" somewhere.



Timothy D Looker OAM @TimLooker

The ABC has excelled itself tonight. #ABC

An outstanding piece of investigative journalism.

The shockwave have just begun.

I will now boycott the Melbourne Cup.

Such cruelty cannot have my support.

8:52 PM · Oct 17, 2019 · Twitter for iPad

9 Retweets 28 Likes



regarded as one of the





Tom Simak @TomSimak · Nov 1, 2016
First time going to the races today, and it's to protest 🖖 🖖 Q 2 t] 1 ₾ 8



I have always been a strong advocate for the rights of animals to live a cruelty-free life.

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♡ 506



Jo Frederiks @JoFrederiks · Oct 28, 2017 Horse racing equates exploitation & slavery - don't support it.



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The following nine reasons outline exactly why horse racing is 'on the nose', why the above social shift against horse racing is occurring and why your brand should not be in any way associated with the industry.

## Separation & isolation

From the moment they are brought into the world, the life of a racehorse is one of use and abuse.

Thoroughbred foals are separated from their mothers at approximately six months of age and then commence training. To make them more attractive to bidders at yearling sales, and to prepare them for future racing, they are subjected to a regime of exercise and generally fed a high protein diet (and sometimes drugs) to increase their appeal and profitability.

The foal will be "broken" - meaning they will be taught to comply with human commands through learned helplessness techniques - which compels the horse to obey due to fear, pain or both. The horses that rebel against the oppressive training methods will be forced even more harshly into compliance. If they fail to comply, they will be deemed rogue horses and discarded.

Foals born with minor deformities can also render a horse worthless and may mean a very early death. Some cosmetic deformities may be operated on or treated but this risks further injury to the young horse.

It is also not uncommon for horses at thoroughbred sales to be bought for only a few hundred dollars and killed for meat, either for human consumption or pet food (more on this later).



Racehorses are mostly confined to a stable where they will spend up to 22 hours per day, unable to socialise with other horses, their only reprieve being training.

#### More here:

https://horseracingkills.com/issues/confinement

In this artificial environment, many horses will develop symptoms of neurotic behaviour like wind sucking (grasping an object by the teeth and sucking in air) and weaving (swaying the head, neck and forequarters from side to side). They will also suffer from many common illnesses like respiratory diseases and stomach ulcers. A study of racehorses at Randwick in NSW found that 86 per cent had stomach ulcers. Many had deep, bleeding ulcers within eight weeks of starting race preparation. The prevalence of gastric ulceration in thoroughbred racehorses is reported to be between 66 and 93 per cent, increasing to 80 to 100 per cent as training duration increases and racing commences.

#### More here:

https://horseracingkills.com/issues/other-health-issues

# Instruments of cruelty are common practice in training and racing regimes

In preparation for their first race, the yearling will be forced into a training regime which will place enormous stress on the immature skeletal frame and make them prone to early breakdown. This causes many lower limb ailments and injuries including fractures, pulled ligaments and strained tendons. Many horses suffer injuries well before their first race.

As running at high speeds over long distances is not natural to horses, many show resistance to conventional training methods. As a result, pain and fear are used to force the horse into submission. Various devices and methods, some legal and some illegal, will give the horse no option but to comply to the demands of the trainer. Horses are not necessarily willing participants. Whips, bits, spurs and tongue ties are all commonplace and legal to use on horses in training and racing.

#### **WHIPS**

It is still perfectly legal and common practice in horse racing to beat a horse with a whip over the finish line. Whipping horses over and over again inflicts physical and psychological pain and increases the likelihood of injury.

Somehow, the racing industry has escaped accountability for this blatant act of animal cruelty. Under current animal cruelty legislation, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA), if the same routine treatment was inflicted on a horse outside a racetrack, the perpetrator would almost certainly be prosecuted.



## **More here:** https://horseracingkills.com/campaigns/the-whip

#### **TONGUE TIES**

72% of thoroughbred trainers use nylon stockings, leather straps or elastic bands (most common) to tie a horse's tongue down to the base of their mouth.

There are several reasons for doing this, one being to increase the jockey's control and domination over the horse. The tie is looped around the base of the horse's tongue and then tied around the lower jaw. Some trainers pull the tongue forward and sideways out of the mouth when tying. This is an unregulated practice. The trainers decide how tightly to tie the tongue and how long it remains tied. Ties are generally applied before leaving the stable and are reportedly left on for up to twenty



minutes during racing and thirty minutes during training. There is no veterinarian input either before or after use.

#### More here:

https://horseracingkills.com/issues/tongue-ties

### **JIGGERS**

Electric shock devices, more commonly known as jiggers, are illegal. However, anecdotal evidence suggests they are frequently used by trainers.

Top trainer and 2015 Melbourne Cup winner Darren Weir was investigated in 2019 and charged with their use. He received a minor four-year ban from racing and is facing nine criminal charges including "engaging in the torturing, abusing, overworking and terrifying" of a horse. No jockeys associated with Weir are under investigation despite jockeys needing to be complicit in order for jiggers to work.



#### More here:

https://horseracingkills.com/issues/jiggers

Since the Darren Weir investigation, another top trainer is being investigated for tasering/jigging horses, along with doping, fraud and other offences.

Though illegal in Australia, some horses will have their injuries masked by drugs which will enable the horse to race a little longer until the injuries worsen and the horse inevitably breaks down.

Ultimately, the racehorse is seen as a commodity, existing to earn their connections an income. This results in them being pushed too far, too often, too young. The proof is the average racing career is less than three years and mostly ends due to injury.

The systematic widespread slaughter of racehorses was finally exposed in October 2019 by the ABC's 7:30 program 'The Final Race'

#### **WATCH HERE**

https://youtu.be/Zp-ALoBRW20



The world watched in horror as scenes of racehorses being punched, electrically prodded, repeatedly bolted in the head and hung to be slaughtered were splashed across our TV screens. The investigation proved beyond a doubt that every year at least 10,000 unwanted racehorses of all ages, and past "successes", are being routinely sent to Australian slaughterhouses to be exported as meat for human consumption, or to knackeries to be killed for pet food.

The shocking exposé led to the 'Inquiry into Animal Cruelty in the Management of Retired Thoroughbred and Standardbred Horses in Queensland'.

Terry Martin SC who led the inquiry stated "The Final Race brutally educated the public that, on a large scale, retired racing horses are being treated as disposable commodities."

This is just one of the many damning comments to come from the 94-page document which unsurprisingly reveals critical evidence of an industry and government, at both the state and national level, that is failing both horses used by the racing industry, and animal welfare in general, miserably.

#### More here:

https://horseracingkills.com/2020/02/24/qld-inquiry-into-racehorse-cruelty-reveals-damning-evidence/

A horse's lifespan is thirty years, yet most racehorses are unlikely to compete beyond five years of age. With 13,500 foals being bred specifically for the racing industry each year, there are simply not enough homes to care for them once they are no longer wanted for racing. Nor is there a willingness by those in the industry to take the time and funds to rehabilitate them after racing.

### Missing foals

At least one third of foals born into the Australian thoroughbred racing industry don't make it to the track. Many more are unaccounted for.

#### **WATCH HERE**

https://youtu.be/izda4areWdA



In addition to the thousands of foals who are registered for racing but never make it to the racetrack, current rules allow for foals unsuitable for racing due to poor conformation to be disposed of without being accounted for.

The studbook requires foals to be registered within thirty days of birth. However, this can be extended to 120 days, allowing plenty of time for owners to decide whether the foal is demonstrating the desired attributes for racing.



Anecdotal evidence from industry participants suggests it is common practice for many more foals, those who are not yet registered, to be discarded.

### Horses are left to starve

There is an abundance of cases of neglected and starved horses slowly wasting away in paddocks across Australia and racehorses are not immune to this awful fate.

In January 2020, the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses (CPR) investigated two different properties near Toowoomba in Queensland where a number of racehorses were discovered. Some were already deceased and rotting away, others alive and severely malnourished.



IMAGE 1 | Thirty-five horses found dead on property west of Toowoomba

ABC NEWS

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-14/horses-found-dead-near-toowoomba/11865562

IMAGE 2 | Five of many horses found starved to death at the Toowoomba property

**COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RACEHORSES** 

f https://bit.ly/3efJs1E

IMAGE 3 | One of fourteen emaciated racehorses discovered at another Toowoomba property

**COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RACEHORSES** 

f https://bit.ly/2A4YTLj

### Deathwatch

According to CPR's annual Deathwatch report, on average a horse is killed on Australian racetracks every three days.

#### **WATCH HERE**

https://youtu.be/vNJhsl9HZMY



The most common cause of death recorded by industry reports is catastrophic front limb injury followed by cardiac problems and bleeds.

#### More here:

https://horseracingkills.com/issues/deathwatch

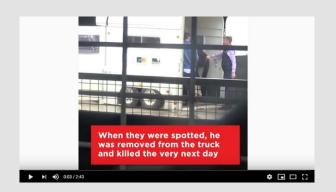
Thousands more horses disappear each year from racing as a result of injuries they have sustained.

Since CPR commenced investigating, recording and reporting on deaths on track, there has been a greater tendency to take injured horses away from the race track to kill them so that their death is not required to appear in official stewards reports and is therefore not accounted for.

Now and Zen unable to bear weight due to a catastrophic injury is loaded onto a float and taken off track to be killed.

#### **WATCH HERE**

https://youtu.be/RDszJ-4NJFw



# The racing industry advocates for killing unwanted racehorses

When the racing industry suggests that perhaps the best solution to dealing with unwanted horses is to have an in-house knackery, or support killing on-farm, to try to ensure the horses they once profited from are killed "humanely", there is a fundamental problem.

## Former top trainer **Peter Moody** tweeted:

"Let's be realistic, not all horses can be rehomed or train to different disciplines. Why not have an industry knackery for want of a better description to manage and handle horses' welfare as humanely as possible."

#### More here:

https://bit.ly/2zs500L

Racing Victoria joined in but instead advocating for on-farm killing. The ABC reported:

"Veterinarians will be sent to Victorian farms to euthanase retired racehorses to save them from being killed in abattoirs and knackeries, as part of the Victorian racing industry's response to an ABC investigation that exposed cruel treatment of thoroughbreds."

#### More here:

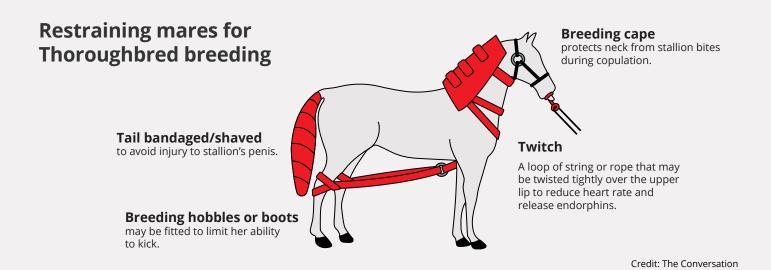
https://ab.co/3d7f60Y

There can be nothing humane about killing any animal that is healthy and wants to live.

# Breeding regimes are cruel and unnatural for both mares and stallions

Rather than allow nature to take its course and let mares conceive naturally and give birth in the summer months when the weather is mild, foals are born as close to August 1st as possible as this is the date that thoroughbred horses' age is determined by. This allows maximum time for race training.

This unnatural cycle is achieved through adjusting temperatures, artificially lengthening days through the use of lighting and injecting drugs such as 'prostaglandins' into the female. When they reach fertility, often only weeks after giving birth, mares are forced to stand for a stallion in order to produce another foal for the following season. Under natural conditions, mares normally produce a foal once every two years. Restraints and even a 'teaser stallion' are part of this unnatural process.



Approximately 3,000 mares are sent to be used for breeding each year. However, the number of mares used for breeding does not grow, meaning approximately the same number of mares must be taken out of the breeding cycle each year. These mares are unaccounted for by the racing industry.

More information on this unnatural and cruel breeding technique here:

https://bit.ly/30jDhoQ

## 10

## Jumps racing

To the disbelief of many, jumps racing persists in Victoria and South Australia even though it has been illegal in NSW since 1997. This cruel activity forces horses to jump obstacles at high speeds with the weight of a jockey on their back making it statistically 19 times more dangerous than flat racing. Every year jumps racing causes falls to horses resulting in horrific injuries and often death.

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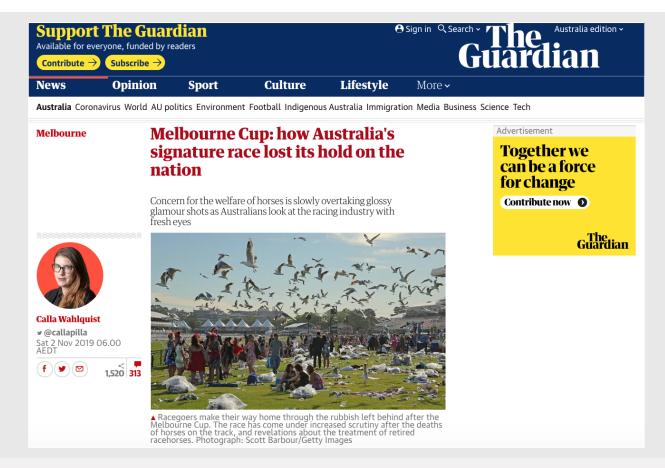
One example of this can be seen from jumps racing's most deadly track in Warrnambool, Victoria, last year where **Super Haze** suffered and died for gambling profits.

#### **WATCH HERE**

https://bit.ly/2BUHKVM



Though horse racing persists, propped up by gambling habits, there is clear evidence that the industry is morally bankrupt and increasingly becoming socially unacceptable. Like the circus and theme parks, the use of animals for entertainment is a tired and cruel concept and businesses who support such activities will increasingly come under scrutiny and be viewed as archaic and as not acting in accordance within their duty to adhere to corporate social responsibility.



Melbourne Cup: how Australia's signature race lost its hold on the nation

THE GUARDIAN | https://bit.ly/39RI1GG



We appreciate the time you have taken to read this document and hope that you will consider the information provided.

We very much welcome further discussion with you and are available via email at enquiries@horseracingkills.com or phone on 03 9016 3277



#### List of articles:

The Dark Side of Horse Racing Exposed - ABC

'We' should act on horse racing cruelty, Bruce McAvaney says, but why hadn't 'we' acted already? - ABC

Racing Victoria rejects outright ban on sending racehorses to slaughter – **The Guardian** 

Horse slaughter: irresponsibility and hypocrisy on all sides have brought us here - The Guardian

You're going to die you maggot': Abbotoir investigated after racehorse cruelty - ABC

Winx trainer says racing's social license at risk - Financial Review

Myer faces social media backlash: shame on you - Ragtrader

Are you really shocked by the latest horse racing cruelty? It's the mathematics of the industry - ABC

Are opponents of the Melbourne Cup fun-hating whingers or worried animal activists with a point? - News.com.au

Will Australian racing overcome cruelty scandals - BBC

How is horse racing cruel? - Sydney Morning Herald

Mass slaughter and abuse of racehorses undermines industry's commitment to animal welfare - ABC

Melbourne Cup: Will Australian racing overcome cruelty scandals - BBC

Mass slaughter of Australian racehorses rocks industry - Telegraph

Melbourne Cup tradition on shaky turf as animal welfare concerns dominate - 7 News

Betting turnover down on subdued Melbourne Cup Day - Sydney Morning Herald

Why the Melbourne Cup is one of the cruelest days on Australia's calendar – Sydney Morning Herald

The race that divides a nation: Why controversy surrounds this year's Melbourne Cup - SBS News

Melbourne Cup: How Australia's signature race lost its hold on the nation - The Guardian

After cruelty claims, Swift exit, organisers fear cup crowds will dip - The Age

'Money is not as important as values': businesses say Nup to the Cup - The Age

Melbourne Cup attendance falls as animal rights activists take up positions – The Guardian

Melbourne Cup sponsors face social media backlash – AdNews

Taylor Swift pulls out of 2019 performance – **ABC News** 

Taylor Swift cancels her controversial Melbourne Cup performance - SBS News

Taylor Swift cancels Melbourne Cup performance. Animal rights activists applaud - Forbes

Taylor Swift replaced by local singers at Melbourne Cup - The Age

Taylor Swift cancels Melbourne Cup appearance after criticism - The New Daily

Taylor Swift pulls out of the Melbourne Cup, but what was the real reason? - 7 News

Melbourne Cup reportedly struggling to secure A-listers who aren't fans of animal cruelty – **Pedestrian** 

Melbourne Cup regular Megan Gale pulls out after shocking doco reveals racehorse cruelty - News.com.au

Celebrities shunning Melbourne Cup - Canberra Times

Megan Gale boycotts the Melbourne Cup - Yahoo News