



Issue Eight

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IN THE NEWS



Registration Open for IFAR Webinar on Behaviour Change in Equine Welfare

The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) is pleased to present its webinar on the role of behaviour change in equine welfare. Scheduled for 24 October, the webinar will be led by applied behavioural scientist Dr. Denise Goodwin and moderated by

renowned media personality Caroline Searcy. It will begin at 11 a.m. (BST).

The IFAR webinar will focus on who needs to do what differently in racing and how to achieve those goals. A recording will be made available at a later date.

Denise's presentation will examine why behaviour change is necessary, three common mistakes in changing behaviour, the importance of problem definition, and drivers of behaviour. A question-and-answer session will then follow.

"I am looking forward to this webinar," said Denise.

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IN THE NEWS

Registration is open for the IFAR Webinar on 24 October

“People and their behaviour are at the root of some of today’s challenges and opportunities faced by society. Behavioural science can help us understand what influences behaviour and how we can influence change. There is never one solution but usually many things that different groups of people can do to improve a challenge. In this case, it is the welfare of racehorses.”

The webinar is free, but registration is required. After registering, attendees will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

To register, please click [**HERE**](#).

“We are delighted to welcome Denise to the IFAR webinar,” said IFAR Chair Di Arbuthnot. “Her expertise and knowledge will certainly add value to the future of our sport. With the current climate’s focus on horse racing, her skills in translating research into policy and practice will help us all to communicate about the importance of the safety and welfare of Thoroughbreds throughout their lives.”

Co-Director of Health & Social Programs at BehaviourWorks Australia, at Monash University, Denise specialises in translating research evidence into policy and practice. She also serves as a member of Racing Victoria’s Equine Welfare Committee, where she applies her skills to help promote the safety and welfare of the racehorse at all stages of the horse’s life.

During the Asian Racing Conference (ARC), which was held in the days immediately following the IFAR Conference in Melbourne this February, Denise presented on how the long-term success of racing depends heavily on the standards and approaches to the health, wellbeing, and treatment of the sport’s equine athletes throughout their lives, and society’s



acceptance of them.

Her powerful presentation began a conversation that will be continued via the upcoming webinar, which will provide an in-depth look at the topic. Submit any question before the webinar via the IFAR’s social pages.

Denise’s academic expertise is built on three pillars central to successful real-world impact: synthesising research knowledge; contextualising this knowledge against practice within complex systems through consultation with government, industry professionals, citizens and other groups; and using the information gained to develop, test and embed behaviour change.

“I hope the session provides people with some practical approaches for understanding and tackling some of the challenges that currently exist with equine welfare,” said Denise. “Alongside some behaviour change knowledge, the presentation will include some reassuring and practical examples of what is happening in the aftercare of racehorses.”

Welcome to the eighth edition of Global Aftercare

Introduction by IFAR Chair Di Arbuthnot

The contents of this informative newsletter give us all an insight on what is happening around the world to give Thoroughbreds a pathway to a life outside of racing.

I was in Deauville during filming for the last video newsletter and watched in awe how these horses were changing men and women's lives who had been involved in conflict. All of the charities that work with Thoroughbreds to help veterans, children with special needs, teenagers who struggle in the education system, and adults with mental health struggles—just to name a few—do an amazing job.

The well-known Winston Churchill quote “There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man” says it all.

September and October have been a busy time for Thoroughbred events, particularly in the United States with the Thoroughbred Makeover and the TIP awards, both firmly established and going from strength to strength.

Elsewhere, there have been exciting new initiatives. In Australia, there is Equimillion, a million-dollar equestrian event for Thoroughbreds, and in the United Kingdom, a polo competition was held, followed by an auction to highlight these horses' adaptability for this sport.

In the UK, we also saw a former racehorse make history by winning the supreme riding horse title at Horse of the Year Show (HOYS), and with the Olympics now recognising Thoroughbreds, there could be more opportunities for success stories in the equestrian events next year in Paris.

Racehorse welfare, including a focus on aftercare, was featured at the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) conference in Paris this month, which is an event attended by members of regulatory bodies from around the world. Also this month, IFAR steering group member Dr Eliot Forbes gave a presentation at the 23rd International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (ICRAV) in Hong Kong. Events like these give attendees opportunities to engage on a subject that must be addressed and actioned.

Funding has always been a challenge for many



countries to support these horses, so well done to the French aftercare organisation Au-Delà des Pistes, for raising €45,000 from its 'Arc Promise' which equates to six months support of 50 horses. We wish the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) in the US well in a similar initiative around the Breeders' Cup World Championships later this year. And as always, we are appreciative to the Japan Racing Association (JRA), which has entered into a multi-year sponsorship agreement to support IFAR's activities.

I am also looking forward to the IFAR webinar on the 24th of October featuring behavioural scientist Dr Denise Goodwin as she uses her knowledge to help enrich the future of our sport. We know the spotlight on horse racing has never been so much in the forefront.

The IFAR webinar will focus on who needs to do what differently in horse racing and how to achieve those goals, and I hope many of you will be able to join the session.

News from around the globe



Retired Racehorses in Second Careers Awarded in Hong Kong

The Equestrian Federation of Hong Kong, China (HKEFC) presented the End of Season Awards in June 2023 to recognise the top performing partnerships of the equestrian competition season 2022/23 in Hong Kong. To acknowledge the exceptional achievements of former racehorses in second careers, the Hong Kong Jockey Club sponsored the awards for the Best Retired Racehorse and the Best “Newcomer” Retired Racehorse in the disciplines of Eventing, Jumping and Dressage.

Come on Wongchoy was the recipient of the Hong Kong Best Retired Racehorse Award. The award is presented to the highest-ranking horse who competed at dressage, showjumping and eventing during the season. Come On Wongchoy’s rider Christian Allderidge, representing Lo Wu Saddle Club shared, “As the season went on, he became more confident, and braver. He is such a versatile horse who really wants to try and please. I think he is very capable and looking at making improvements next season.”

New Elegance, also a Lo Wu Saddle Club resident, was the winner of the best “newcomer” in Dressage and Eventing, and produced consistent performances throughout the season. “He has been a superb competitor, a complete professional. He is one of the bravest cross-country horses I’ve ridden. Dressage-wise, he has been so reliable and had some excellent scores this season up to 80%” rider Jessica Williams shared. Baby Dragon, who was the best “newcomer” in Jumping, combines competing with his duties as a school horse at Beas River Equestrian Centre. Rider Anaïs Chauvin aims to continue producing Baby Dragon in show jumping and eventing with the hope that he will soon be ready to compete with the riders in Beas River Riding School.

All three horses graduated from the Hong Kong Jockey Club’s Retired Racehorse Retraining Programme. The long-standing programme provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to transitioning horses from racing to a second career, a crucial service for the equestrian industry in Hong Kong which is reliant on retrained racehorses.



International Thoroughbred Polo Championship Introduced

The International Thoroughbred Polo Championship took place on the 19th September. This new event and competition, designed to showcase the Thoroughbred’s agility and temperament for polo, was held at the Guards Polo Club. The club is set in the outstanding natural surroundings of Smith’s Lawn in Windsor Great Park. In total, 55 Thoroughbreds bred to race and now retrained as polo ponies competed in the four classes accommodating different age groups. The winner of each class received a cash prize of £1000 and there was a further prize of £1000 given to the overall champion. The Earl of Tyrone’s River won the 5-year-old class and then was crowned the overall winner.

Many of the competitors did race, but several others never made it to the track. However, they are all now building a career in polo. Those entered were ridden and produced by successful polo players who had bought their Thoroughbreds from the sales or privately from owners. The majority came directly from racehorse trainers’ yards through contacts the players have with trainers. Polo is an important discipline for the racing industry to support, as

the players like smaller fillies who are 3-year-olds and upward. In fact, 42 out of the 55 entrants were fillies/mares, and most had only run a few times. Polo is a popular avenue for these horses’ breeders, owners, and trainers. In each class, the Thoroughbreds were judged on conformation, turnout, and polo schooling ability. The objective of the judges was to identify the Thoroughbred with the most potential of becoming a successful polo pony.

In addition, there was an opportunity for the competing horses to be sold and bought in a public auction, with potential buyers having had the chance to watch the classes and see the Thoroughbreds close-up and in action. Over a third of the entries were declared for sale, including Chattonga Girl, who was the winner of the 4-year-old class and then sold for £13,000.





Temporary Stay Project Begins at JRA Utsunomiya Retraining Center

The Japanese Consultative Committee on Aftercare of Racehorses, which was established in 2017 and is composed of members representing the horse racing community including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the government agency overseeing horse racing, has been discussing the various issues surrounding retired racehorses and the ways to address them. During these discussions, it was recognised that one of the biggest challenges was that horses can miss the opportunity to proceed to a second career after retiring from racing due to the lack of a place to stay immediately after retiring.

As one of the ways to address this problem, JRA will start its project to temporarily keep retired racehorses at its Utsunomiya Retraining Center (Tochigi Prefecture) as a trial commencing from April 2024. The current plan is to keep a maximum of approximately 30 horses at a time for about 40 to 50 days each in order to refresh their mentality (from being racehorses to non-racehorses) and provide rest.

Additionally, initial retraining (groundwork) will be provided before handing them over to their next home. About 200 retired racehorses annually will be able to use this facility. Fees to use this facility will not need to be borne by each horse owner but rather will be paid for by the racing industry as a part of the project to support retired racehorses. While Japan has two separate governing bodies that conduct horse racing - the Japan Racing Association and the National Association of Racing - horses retired from either are eligible to use this facility. The project can be expanded further if it is confirmed that this system and the use of this facility can enhance the chances of a better second career for retired racehorses.

“This new project that we are starting will be an important topic among the various actions taken during the last few years in Japan regarding retired racehorses,” said Mr. Atsushi Kikuta, JRA Director in charge of Equestrian Affairs and chair of the Japanese Consultative Committee on Aftercare of Racehorses. “This will not only create an environment to help Thoroughbreds retired from racing move on to their second career smoothly, but we are also planning to search for solutions to different problems and to try new attempts which will hopefully contribute to the development of promoting second careers for retired racehorse in Japan.”

There is also a plan to launch a new organization so that the racing industry will, in addition to operating this facility, steadily and continuously work to promote the diverse usages of retired racehorses, create a better environment for life after retirement, and support the efforts to take in and keep retired racehorses.



Thoroughbred Census Launched in Great Britain

British Racing's Horse Welfare Board has launched the first ever Thoroughbred census in Great Britain, in collaboration with research experts at Hartpury University. All owners of former racehorses are being asked to submit a completed census by 31 December 2023. The census will help build an improved Thoroughbred data bank about former racehorses and the lives they go on to lead.

The project's primary objective is to help improve traceability of Thoroughbreds after they have been retired from racing. With improved data, British Racing and its aftercare charity, Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), can better support owners with access to educational resources and routes to compete if desired, as well as continue to build informed and helpful communities. Improved data at this stage of a Thoroughbred's life can also help the Horse Welfare Board and RoR improve and adapt welfare initiatives and will, most importantly, enable fast and effective contact in the event of an equine disease outbreak.

The census will request information on each horse's equine identification document (passport) number, microchip number, age, current residence, second career, and more to provide a robust view of the 2023 British retired racehorse population. The census has been launched in partnership with Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), British Racing's official aftercare charity, funded by the Racing Foundation, and is supported by World Horse Welfare and Weatherbys General Stud Book. The 2023 Thoroughbred Census can be completed online [HERE](#).

Third Episode of IFAR Video Magazine Published

The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) published its third episode of the IFAR video magazine in July. It features the important work retired racehorses are doing in the realm of human therapy. The [full episode](#), as well as a [highlight reel](#), can be found on the [IFAR website](#) as well as on [IFAR's YouTube channel](#).

The short film demonstrates how former racehorses are having a positive and profound effect on humans, whether they be aspiring Paralympians, military veterans, or prisoners. There is mounting evidence to show that retired racehorses are particularly well-suited to providing equine assisted services and equine assisted therapy, delivering life changing support to people affected by physical and/or mental health conditions.

Programs related to equine assisted therapies from all across the globe are highlighted in the new video magazine, including BraveHearts, Equine Pathways, HorseBack UK, Racing Hearts, Racing to Relate, and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF).



Retirement Farm Established in South Korea

The Korea Racing Authority (KRA) has announced that it is going to introduce a retired resting farm for champion horses in November. The KRA has signed the MOU with the Nonghyup Agribusiness Group Inc. on the 5th of October in order to create a partnership for aftercare as well as develop new businesses for horse welfare.

The Nonghyup Agribusiness Group Inc. is the largest livestock corporation in South Korea with 2022 sales of ₩10.6 trillion (\$7.8 billion). The new retirement facility has been developed at The Nonghyup Anseong Farmland, which is a subsidiary of the Nonghyup Agribusiness Group Inc. The Nonghyup Anseong Farmland is an animal theme park with more than 50 species of domesticated animals and seasonal flower landscapes which is expected to reach about 800,000 visitors this year.

Following the visit to Living Legends, the international home of retired champion horses, during IFAR and the Asian Racing Conference in Melbourne this February, the KRA and The Nonghyup Agribusiness Group Inc. have been discussing a facility model for the aftercare system in Korea.

The KRA has established the selection system criteria for "Honored-Retired Racehorses" with the support of domestic racehorse owners associations. The primary criteria for the facility focuses on horses that have difficulties in finding second careers. Also, the horse's racing accomplishments or narrative potential are considered when the application is filed.

The 9-year-old gelding Cheongdam Dokki has been selected as the first resident. He was born in Kentucky and earned many fans in Korea while earning over \$3 million in prize money during his racing career. The KRA has a plan to support a total of 10 retired horses until 2027, and will then review the business performance to expand this model on the collaboration of private sectors.

The KRA is committed to developing a lifecycle-based welfare system. The KRA established a new organization in charge of equine welfare in 2022 and boosted its equine welfare fund starting in 2023 with the agreement of the racehorse owners' associations. Furthermore, the KRA is expanding its transitioning and retraining program, rehabilitative supportive program for injured racehorses, and its support for increasing riding competitions for retired racehorses.

Thoroughbreds to be Recognised at Olympics & FEI Events

At next year's Paris Olympic Games, Thoroughbreds competing will, for the first time, be recognised in the starting lists and results. In the past, Thoroughbreds competing were listed only as 'breeding unknown'. The agreement follows discussions between the European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation (EMHF), the World Breeding Federation for Sports Horses (WBFSH), the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Stud Book Committee (ISBC) and will extend also to all FEI competitions. Read more [HERE](#).





Knockemdown Crowned Thoroughbred Makeover Champion

The Finale Championship of the Retired Racehorse Project's 2023 Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, presented by Thoroughbred Charities of America, welcomed the five top-placed horses after two days of preliminary competition to compete for additional honors and \$100,000 in prize money. A panel of judges watched the entire day of competition and ranked the ten discipline winners to determine the overall Thoroughbred Makeover Champion, sponsored by Churchill Downs.

When the points were tallied, the honor went to Knockemdown, trained in dressage by professional Alison O'Dwyer of Lake Worth, Florida. Knockemdown is a 2019 gelding by American Pharoah out of Ancient Goddess (FR), by Iffraaj (GB), bred in Kentucky by Fifth Avenue Bloodstock. He is unraced, but posted his most recent timed work in racing training on December 27, 2021 at Turfway Park.

The People's Choice Award, sponsored by Achieve Equine, was determined by text-in popular vote open to both in-person and live stream attendees. This award was given to Arklow, trained by Gina Gans, the winner of Field Hunter. Arklow (Arch – Unbridled Empire, by Empire Maker) is a 2014 gelding bred in Kentucky by John R. Penn and Frank Penn. He raced for Donegal Racing and Joseph Bulger in a remarkable career that spanned seven seasons, racking up multiple graded stakes wins, three attempts at the Breeders' Cup Turf, and over \$3 million in earnings. He won the Field Hunter discipline in both preliminary and Finale rounds.

The RRP is uniquely positioned as one of the only aftercare organizations in the United States that interfaces with the full breadth of the aftercare industry. Since 2015, the RRP has noted that the average price for horses moving into second careers has been on the rise, and for 2023, participating trainers spent an average of \$3,050 to acquire their horses including both direct purchase and adoption. Over half of this year's entrants were sourced directly from racing connections, either through personal contacts or a listing agent. About a fifth of all horses went through a reseller, and just over 16% of horses came through a non-profit adoption organization. Over 6% of horses were still owned by their racing connections. Full results can be found [HERE](#).



Kick Up for Kiwis Workshops Held

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's (NZTR) Welfare and Sustainability team facilitated three workshops hosted by Kick Up's Vicky Leonard in October. Kick Up was developed in Australia to provide racing participants with accurate and fact-checked information to defend racing against its critics and provide a balanced view to false claims about the industry.

"With racing's social licence under threat globally I felt it was imperative we got Vicky over to speak about the work Kick Up is doing and how the New Zealand Thoroughbred industry can be proactive in securing racing's ability to operate in society," NZTR head of Welfare and Sustainability Justine Sclater said. "We hosted three workshops in the North Island with over 160 people in attendance. I found it encouraging that we have a variety of industry participants there, showing the motivation to stand up for our industry against false claims and inaccurate information portraying our sport in a negative light.

"We had trainers, stable and stud staff, university students, NZTR Acknowledged Retrainers, owners, breeders, track managers, media, jockeys, members of RIB and those who work in race club administration come along and participate. I've had some great feedback, and the workshops were a great launch pad going forward. We're working on formulating New Zealand-specific information that we can circulate to our industry participants so they can feel confident when refuting mistruths."

Each three-hour workshop covered the psychology of social change and what this means for Kick Up, how to respond to criticism of racing in person and online, and how content marketing, research and language all affect the conversations about racing. Leonard was encouraged by the engagement at the workshops and said it boded well for positive conversations in the future.

"The purpose of the workshops is to provide a balanced view and arm the industry with the facts and information they need to defend itself," she said. "What I have been impressed with is the engagement from everybody. I think everyone understands this is something we need to get on the front foot with."

For more information on Kick Up head to its website [HERE](#).



IFAR'S Vision

- All horses are treated in a humane and ethical manner every day of their life.
- All suitable horses find a home after racing.
- Every industry participant, administrator, owner and breeder recognises and embraces their responsibility towards Thoroughbred aftercare.
- All racing jurisdictions have effective and well-funded aftercare, traceability and education programmes in place.
- Thoroughbreds are valued and sought-after athletes by the equestrian community.
- IFAR leads a highly-engaged and global community of horse professionals advocating for Thoroughbred aftercare.



Dates for the Diary 2023

Australia

3rd-4th November - QLD Barrel Racing Association Champions OTT Feature Jackpot

16th-19th November - Thoroughbred Sport Horse Association National Titles

France

12th November- Champions Parade, Auteuil

Global

24th October - IFAR Webinar on Behaviour Change featuring Dr Denise Goodwin

Great Britain

31st December- Thoroughbred Census Deadline

Ireland

4th November - Randox sponsored Show Jumping Clinic with HSI Level 2 coach Tomas Ryan

18th November - Randox sponsored Show Jumping Clinic with Irish High Performance Coach Ian Fearon

2nd December - Randox sponsored Show Jumping Clinic with Irish International rider Commandant Geoff Curran

14th December - The Treo Eile Thoroughbred Show Jumping Classic, at The Emerald Equestrian Centre

Japan

16 December - Retired Racehorse Cup, sponsored by the Japan Racing Association

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Below you will find links to the websites of IFAR Steering Group Members



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How IFAR can support you

IFAR comprises members with significant knowledge and expertise and is ready to assist those seeking help. This assistance may be general advice or guidance or it may be tailored to specific issues relating to the welfare of Thoroughbred racehorses and how to develop aftercare provision in their countries, taking into account cultural differences.