

Equine lifecycle and on-track injury report

2024-2025

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Background

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) publishes reports of foaling, naming, race-related fatalities, retirement, death, and euthanasia figures of thoroughbred and standardbred horses in Queensland's racing industry. QRIC prepares these reports from the 'Single National System' (SNS) for Thoroughbreds and 'Harvey' for standardbreds, race day veterinarians' reports and race day Stewards' reports.

This report is for Queensland, for the financial year July 2024 to June 2025.

Definitions

Foaled

Horses born in Queensland.

Named

Horses in Queensland registered with a racing name by Racing Australia (thoroughbreds) or Harness Racing Australia (standardbreds). Naming generally occurs when a horse is between 12–18 months old.

Death

For the purposes of this report death refers to a thoroughbred or standardbred that has been reported in SNS or Harvey, or a Stewards' report as deceased by any means other than euthanasia or slaughter.

Euthanasia

Euthanasia, for the purposes of this report, means a thoroughbred or standardbred that has been reported in SNS or Harvey, or a Stewards' report as having been euthanised.

Race-related fatality

The death of a racing animal, including by euthanasia, where the death occurs during a race or is directly attributable to an injury or incident arising from participation in that race.

Retired

Retired, for the purposes of this report, refers to the status given to a registered thoroughbred or standardbred that is no longer being trained or raced as self-reported to Racing Australia (RA) or Harness Racing Australia (HRA). In this report, 'retired' does not include the death, slaughter, or euthanasia of a horse.

Injury

An injury is defined for the purpose of this report as any trauma or musculoskeletal finding identified in association with a race start.

Condition

A condition is defined for the purpose of this report as any clinical or physiological abnormality recorded in association with a race start that does not meet the definition of an injury.

Reports

3.1. Foaling

Table 1. Thoroughbred horses foaled between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Thoroughbreds Foaled	1973
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Table 2. Standardbred horses foaled between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Standardbreds Foaled	312
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3.2. Naming

Table 3. Thoroughbred horses named between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Thoroughbreds Named	1830
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Table 4. Standardbred horses named between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Standardbreds Named	255
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3.3. Injuries and fatalities in racing

Table 5. Thoroughbred and standardbred conditions, injuries and race-related fatalities recorded at race meetings from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

	Starters	Conditions	Conditions per 1,000 starters	Injuries	Injuries per 1,000 starters	Euthanised or deceased	Euthanised or deceased per 1,000 starters
Thoroughbred	41,450	564	13.61	334	8.06	31	0.75
Standardbred	23,560	79	3.35	22	0.93	2	0.08

*Rates of reported conditions, injuries and race-related fatalities in Table 5 are expressed per 1,000 race starts.

3.4. Deregistration

Table 6. Thoroughbred horses deregistered from racing through death, euthanasia, slaughter or retirement from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 as reported to Racing Australia by participants and documented in their Single National System.

	Number of Thoroughbreds Deregistered from Racing
Died	271
Euthanised	173
Slaughter	42
Retired	2487

Table 7. Standardbred horses deregistered from racing through death, euthanasia, slaughter, or retirement from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 as reported to Harness Racing Australia by participants and documented in their Harvey system.

	Number of Standardbreds Deregistered from Racing
Died	41
Euthanised	36
Slaughter	7
Retired	283

Important information to be read in conjunction with these figures:

- Injuries at race meetings are reported in Stewards' race day reports. Stewards' reports may be amended at any time by the Stewards at their discretion as races are reviewed.
 - Injuries do not include those occurring at official trials.
 - The injury rate per 1,000 race starts is used to standardise the data relative to the number of race starts during the reporting period.
 - Outside of race meeting records, the accuracy of death and euthanasia figures remain dependent on compliance with the Rules of Racing and accurate self-reporting by industry participants. QRIC, however, enforces these obligations in accordance with *Martin Inquiry* Recommendations 2.3.2 and 3.3.
 - Reported retirements may vary over time for the same data set due to late lodgement of retirement notifications.
 - The accuracy of foaling, naming and deregistration data is dependent on compliance with the Rules of Racing and accurate self-reporting by industry participants. QRIC, however, enforces these obligations in accordance with the *Martin Inquiry* recommendations.
 - Horses sent to slaughter are reported by participants via retirement/de-registration notifications. These slaughter-related notifications are also cross-referenced with slaughter data provided by Queensland livestock slaughter facilities as per Schedule 8A Code of practice for horses at livestock slaughter facilities as prescribed within the *Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2023 (QLD)*.
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