

2024

DEATHWATCH

REPORT



Prepared by the
**Coalition for the Protection
of Racehorses**

In Memoriam



151 fallen racehorses

1 August 2023 - 31 July 2024



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1 ABOUT

Deathwatch Report 2024 is the 11th annual report that summarises reported deaths of racehorses around Australia over the preceding twelve months. Research and production are by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses (CPR).

Between August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024 (the 'racing year'), CPR monitored every race Australia-wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses.

This report is produced in the interests of transparency and public awareness, as the racing industry does not publish comprehensive and aggregated details of annual numbers and causes of deaths.

Occasionally this report refers to a horse as 'unnamed'. In those cases, the horse died during trackwork or training, and before being given an official racing name. Currently, New South Wales is the only state to disclose these deaths in reports, but only when they are notified of them. Not all are reported.

As such, deaths of unnamed horses and horses who die during training often go unnoticed. This only reinforces the need for mandatory reporting. [Support our petition here.](#)

2 SOURCES OF DATA

Data for the Deathwatch Report is sourced from Principle Racing Authority's official stewards' reports for each state, and various media outlets. CPR can confirm that every death listed in this report, and the cause of death, has been thoroughly researched by a skilled and dedicated team.

Each year, CPR experiences obstruction and deception by the racing industry. Members of the industry often refuse to engage in a meaningful

or constructive conversation. Race footage is routinely edited to omit scenes of injured horses and serious incidents before they are made publicly available

Several seriously injured and suffering horses were removed from the track to be euthanised behind the scenes, with the objective that these deaths are not reported in official race day reports.

Whistleblowers from within the industry and the general public can help by reporting misconduct or dishonest, illegal, or unethical activity.

We encourage anyone with information that may be of interest to us to please make a report at <https://www.horseracingkills.com/take-action/equinileaks> or contact us directly via phone or email. Anonymity is guaranteed.

3 KEY FINDINGS

The race-day death toll for the **2023-2024** racing year is **151 horses**.

On average, at least one horse died every **2.4 days**.

Since CPR began maintaining records in 2014, the number of racing related horse deaths continues to increase, contrary to the industry's claims that animal welfare standards are improving.

2024	There were 151 deaths	This is one death every 2.4 days
2023	There were 168 deaths	This is one death every 2.1 days
2022	There were 139 deaths	This is one death every 2.5 days
2021	There were 149 deaths	This is one death every 2.5 days
2020	There were 116 deaths	This is one death every 3.2 days
2019	There were 122 deaths	This is one death every 3.0 days
2018	There were 119 deaths	This is one death every 3.1 days
2017	There were 137 deaths	This is one death every 2.7 days
2016	There were 132 deaths	This is one death every 2.8 days
2015	There were 116 deaths	This is one death every 3.2 days
2014	There were 125 deaths	This is one death every 2.9 days

The true number of horse deaths caused from being raced is likely to be much greater than what is reported. [Watch our short clip to see how easy it is for deaths to go unreported here.](#)

4 DEATHS IN DETAIL

The causes of deaths for racehorses on Australian race tracks include heart attack, severe trauma to head and mouth, fractured pelvis, fractured shoulder, internal bleeding, suspensory rupture in both front legs, fracture of the humerus, shattered carpus, carpal fracture, fractured knee, deep lacerations to flexor tendons, fractured sesamoid bone, bilateral sesamoid fracture, fractured femur, fractured radius, slab fracture, fractured pastern, compound fracture, fractured fetlock, severe bilateral ataxia (loss of muscle use).

Capital Meg ►

Capital Meg was three years old when she suffered a compound fracture during a race in Gympie, on 13 April 2024. A compound fracture is a break that tears through the skin, and is caused by severe trauma like a car crash, or through repetitive traumatic force, such as racing.



Daskulya ▶

Nine-year-old Daskulya was shipped on a boat to race on Kangaroo Island. On 17 February 2024 after his second race there, he collapsed and died from a heart attack. Security officers attempted to conceal Daskulya's death by instructing the spectators who filmed his collapse to erase their footage.



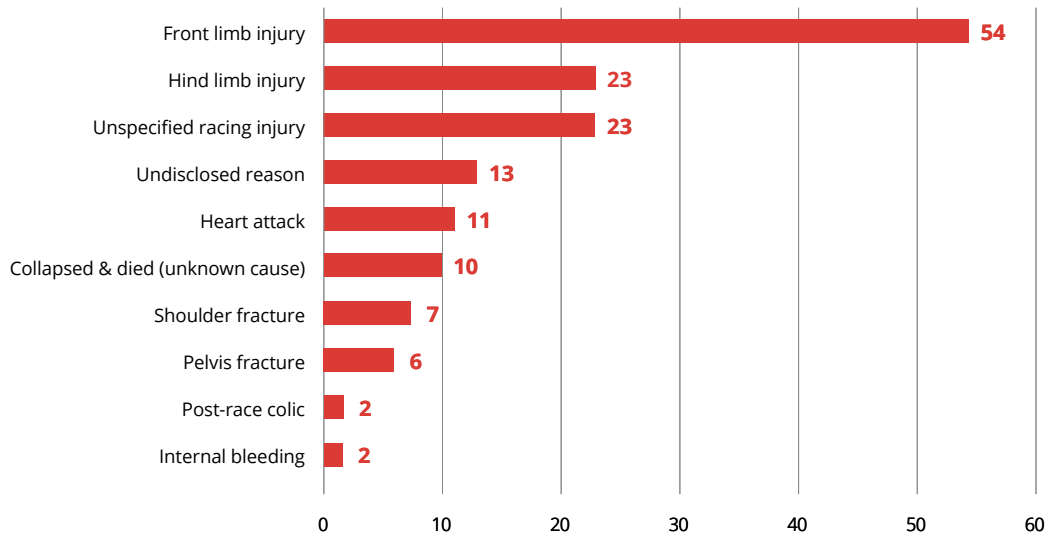
Imalovaboy ▶

On 4 April 2024, four-year-old Imalovaboy was found to be $\frac{1}{8}$ lame after he had won his race. The next day, a vet examination revealed he had sustained a distal radiocarpal fracture. Imalovaboy was then euthanised.



4.1

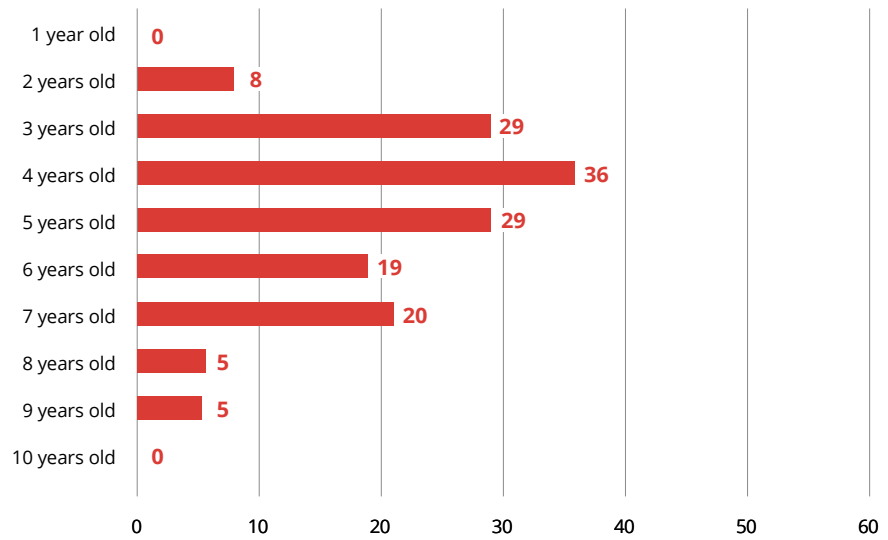
INJURY STATISTICS



The above numbers and types of injuries sustained by racehorses over the last racing year, that CPR can confirm.

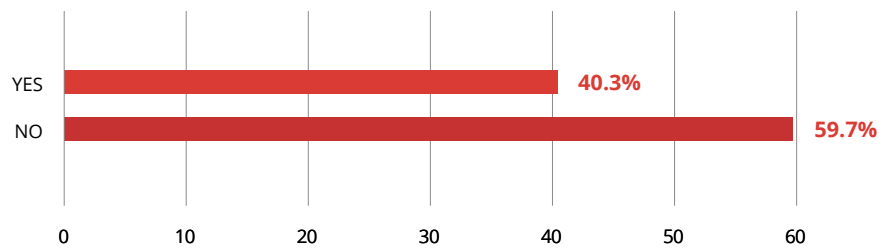
4.2

AGE OF HORSES AT TIME OF THEIR DEATH



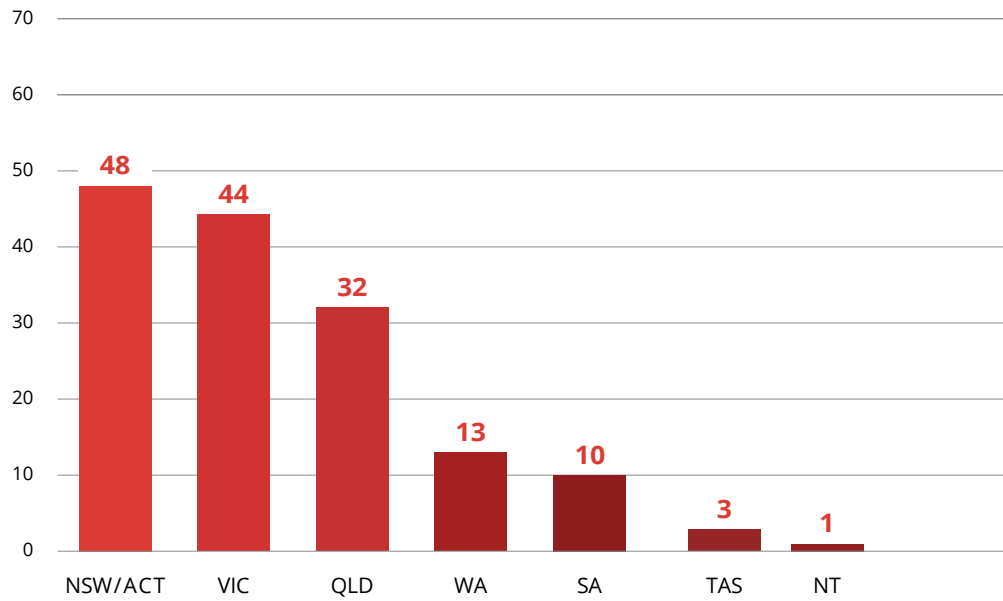
4.3

RACED AS A 2-YEAR OLD



4.4

DEATHS BY STATE



Broken Promises ▶

Broken Promises was two years old when she sustained a serious injury during what was only her second race, on 13 May 2024. Broken Promises was declared deceased on arrival at the vet. No details disclosed.



4.5 HORSES WHO DIED IN THEIR FIRST RACE

LAURISCUS

Lauriscus was a filly who died after her first race in Kyneton on 20 November 2023. Lauriscus finished the race with a lame left hind limb and was recorded on the Racing Australia website as deceased shortly thereafter.

INSTANT IMPRESSION

Instant Impression was a three year old gelding who attempted his first race at Geraldton on 17 December 2023. At the 600m mark, Instant Impression suffered a fractured near hind fetlock and cannon bones.

NOBIALLO

Nobiallo was a three year old gelding who died during his first race at Stony Creek on 6 February 2024. Nobiallo fell at the 250m mark and suffered a serious injury.

LATTE PARTAE

Latte Partae was a two year old filly who died during her first race on 26 August 2023 at Warra. When she entered the home straight, the stress on her two year old body became too much, and Latte Partae suffered a catastrophic heart failure and collapsed.

ACCEPTERN

Acceptern was a four year old filly who was forced to run her first race on 8 February 2024 at Gatton. Acceptern quickly fell behind the pack and had suffered a severe bilateral hindlimb ataxia. Ataxia causes the limbs to buckle and is caused when horses are made to quickly change speeds or start too suddenly.

LEGLESS HODGES

Legless Hodges was a three year old gelding who was entered in a race at Dubbo on 7 June 2024. Only 50m into the race, Legless Hodges broke down badly and was euthanised.

Ava's Gypsy ►

Ava's Gypsy was only two years old when she died past the winning post on her first race at Toowoomba on 23 March 2024. Ava's Gypsy suffered an injury to her hind leg and was euthanised.



4.6 DIED DURING TRAINING, TRIALS OR TRACKWORK

In addition to the deaths on-track, many horses die every year from racing-related injuries off the track after being raced, or in training or during race trials. None of the states, except for NSW, report deaths that occur in training or in trials.

The following horses are some that died during or soon after training or trials during the last racing year.



◀ Think Bold

On 1 August 2023, four year old gelding Think Bold fell during a jumps trial at Traralgon. Think Bold was recorded as deceased six days later.



El Patroness ▶

On 8 October 2023, five year old mare El Patroness died during training. News reports stated that she died whilst trying to exit the training pool.



Big Jimma ▲

On 21 May 2024, Big Jimma had just completed a gallop for trackwork when his rider turned him around, he collapsed of a suspected heart attack. Big Jimma was four years old.



▲ San Remo

In January 2024, San Remo was killed following an injury sustained during training. San Remo had already survived three falls, numerous injuries, and 87 races including 21 jumps races before his body finally gave in. San Remo was nine years old.

4.7 STABLE DEATHS AND DEATHS IN TRANSIT

Whilst monitoring racing deaths throughout the year, CPR also came across a number of deaths that occurred in the stables or during transit to and from racetracks and training. CPR records these deaths in the Deathwatch statistics if the cause of death can be directly attributed to the horse being used as a racehorse.

Deaths off the track are only officially reported in NSW and many go unnoticed.



▲ Invincible Caviar

Five-year-old Invincible Caviar, the daughter of the now also deceased Black Caviar, died from a suspected heart attack while she was being exercised in a swimming pool on 1 November 2023.



▲ Savvy Valentino

According to his trainer, seven-year-old Savvy Valentino broke his pelvis in the float on the way to the racetrack. No further details were disclosed. Savvy Valentino was scratched from his last race on 6 October because he was found to be lame. He was reported as deceased on 25 October 2023.

5 EUTHANASIA OFF TRACK

If a racehorse has suffered injuries and is suffering pain, immediate euthanasia is in the best interest of the animal's welfare.

This racing year, a large increase in horses who sustained an injury during a race were not euthanised on track - CPR has noted several of such cases. The prolonged suffering of horses who are transported off track and euthanised up to several days later, is highly unethical.

If a horse is removed from the track on race day, and killed in the days or weeks following, stewards are not obliged to include this as a death on the track. This is an attempt to minimise public reproach when these injuries and deaths occur, and it obscures the number of horses that die on track. [Watch our short clip to see how easy it is for deaths to go unreported here.](#)

Iron Fist ►

Iron Fist was four years old when he suffered an injury during a race on 5 December 2023. Iron Fist was subsequently transported off track and his status was updated to 'deceased'.



True to form this racing year, the industry continued to hide the shocking scenes of horses being harmed to the point of serious injury and death. Vision of horse's legs snapping, dropping dead, falling, or smashing through rails is not good for business.

[An example was described in The Age](#) by reporter Danny Russell on 29 April 2024:

"There is a curious glitch in the video of a hurdle trial at Warrnambool racecourse on April 19 – less than a fortnight before the coastal town's famous three-day jumps racing carnival.

The footage shows a six-horse field start the 2800-metre event on Warrnambool's inner track. But only five of them finish.

*During the trial, one of the hurdlers, **Rebel Racer**, the winner of the 2023 Adelaide Cup, seems to disappear without a trace, wiped from existence somewhere between the third- and second-last hurdles.*

As the video glitches, he vanishes.

*But what happened to the seven-year-old gelding is no X-Files-like abduction. **Rebel Racer** fell at the third-last jump and had to be put down.*

*While it is of little consolation to the owners and trainer, that section of the footage was later erased and like **Rebel Racer**, evidence of his death ceased to exist.*

Censorship of Racing.com's replays is nothing new. It has become common industry practice to tamper with the archives – to remove what is called "distressing" footage of both jumps and flat racing fatalities."



▲ Rebel Racer

On 19 April 2024, seven-year-old Rebel Racer suffered a catastrophic fall which caused him to be euthanised. There would be no public evidence of any of this, if not for CPR's volunteers who were on site to film it.

CPR continues to call on the racing industry to live up to their claims of being ***“open and transparent”*** by reporting on all deaths caused by race day injuries, including when the horses die away from the track, and to ensure all race replays are accessible.

7 CONFLICT BEHAVIOURS



Horses are naturally cautious about confined spaces and often express distress at the barriers.

Horses express their fear, distress and pain through conflict behaviour, which can be observed on a daily basis at any given race track.

A common cause of distress is at the barriers. Horses are naturally cautious about confined spaces that they can't escape from, and have to be trained/coerced to enter the race track barriers because it goes against all their natural instincts. Some horses refuse to proceed or load, some buck or rear up, others become fractious or cast in the small space, and a few sustain serious injuries which lead to their death.

In just about every race day report Stewards have recorded incidents at the gates, which are referred to as *"difficult to load"*, *"fractious in barriers"*, *"became cast in barriers"*, *"broke through the gates"*, *"dislodged rider"*, *"leg stuck in gates"*, *"reared at the gates"*. As a result of their 'non-compliance', these horses are often given a warning for their *"barrier manners"*.

Some horses who continue to display conflict behaviour at the barriers are retired from racing and deemed *'dangerous'*, others continue to be forced against their will.

Horses are observed exhibiting conflict behaviour on a daily basis at any given race track.



▲ Young Liam

Young Liam was a seven year old gelding who tried his best to communicate that he did not want to race. In 2020, Young Liam was twice recorded at race tracks as having an irregular heart beat. In 2022, he received a warning for his racing manners.

On 6 October 2023, Young Liam reared in the barrier, getting his leg over the partition. On 20 October 2023, Young Liam received a warning for being difficult to load and later a suspension for being difficult to load. On 4 December 2023, Young Liam was recorded as having an irregular heart beat. On 9 February 2024, Young Liam completed his last race and collapsed, and was found by the vet to be deceased.

8 JUMPS RACING

Racehorses used in steeplechase or hurdle races are confronted with the task of galloping as fast as they can whilst being forced to jump obstacles, in a crowd of other horses attempting to do the same. The physical and mental stress, the crowding, and the high speed makes it difficult for the horses to negotiate the obstacles. **Jumps racing is almost 20 times more deadly for horses compared to flat racing.**

Grand Promenade ►

On 25 March 2024 Grand Promenade was the first jumps horse to die on track in the 2024 season. Grand Promenade fell heavily at the second last hurdle in Warrnambool and sustained catastrophic injuries. Grand Promenade had already earned his owners over \$1.2 million in prize money, and he died during his first ever jumps race.





▲ Joffrey

Four-year-old Joffrey was killed after a fall in a jumps race at Casterton on Sunday 30 June 2024. A woman who was on the track to divot-fill witnessed his death:

“We were waiting near the track for the first race to finish, when Joffrey fell at a jump very close to where we were. To our relief the jockey landed safely and at first, we thought Joffrey was alright too, as he stood quickly. Then to my horror, as he turned around, I saw his front leg was swinging loose with a catastrophic open fracture exposing bone and flesh. I cannot overemphasise the impact of that nightmarish vision.”

After the race the divot-fillers picked up several shards of shin bone and a glistening piece of knee joint from the track.

Victoria is the only state left in Australia that still permits jumps racing.

[Support our campaign to end jumps racing here.](#)

9 BROODMARES

A peaceful retirement is far from reality for most mares in the racing industry. After they are 'retired' from racing, many have a second purpose - to produce more racehorses. Over 18,000 mares are used for breeding each year.

The recent death of the famous mare Black Caviar, has drawn much needed attention on the lives and exploitation of broodmares in the racing industry. Black Caviar won all her 25 races but was put straight into breeding as soon

as she was 'retired'.

During the impregnation process, Black Caviar had a 'twitch' restraint on her upper lip, (which could be tightened if she protested when a stallion mounted her), to make her compliant without risking injury to the stallion or herself. Within one month of each birth, Black Caviar was impregnated at the stud again, with the gestation time being on average 11-12 months.

Black Caviar ►

Black Caviar died in August 2024 after giving birth to her ninth foal, who also died a few days later. Her death is not counted in the death toll of this report.



Black Caviar had been suffering from a painful hoof disease; laminitis, which is likely to have been exacerbated by her pregnancies. Black Caviar was euthanised shortly after giving birth to her ninth foal in 11 years. The foal died shortly after.

CPR has initiated a petition to call for traceability of the thousands of broodmares who are retired from their breeding purposes each year.

The petition also calls for a limit on breeding by requesting that mares should only be bred from every second year. This would give broodmares a chance to recuperate from the strains of pregnancy and the birth process. It would also help reduce overbreeding, and in turn, the number of foals ending up as 'wastage'.

[Find the petition here.](#)

10 WASTAGE

In addition to on track deaths, a large number of horses are killed behind the scenes: the racing industry refers to this as 'wastage'.

The killing and disposal of horses occurs throughout the various stages of the racing system, and in every country that conducts horseracing.

Many racehorses are killed prematurely when they are no longer commercially viable - they simply disappear.

One-third to one half of the Thoroughbred foals who are registered (presumably to race) each year (approximately 4,000 to 6,000 foals) never even make it to the racetrack.

The outcomes for these foals is unknown. These foals are also referred to as wastage.

The birth of an unknown number of foals is not registered at all. Some reports suggest this can occur because a foal's physical attributes indicate they are unlikely to develop as 'successful' racehorses. These foals too are discarded and disappear, without being accounted for in any of the figures that are disclosed by the industry.

Therefore, the Deathwatch Report is very conservative in reporting, that one horse is killed by the racing industry, from horrific injury on Australian race tracks every 2.4 days.

In 2021, well-known industry trainer Michael Kent stated the following in response to Australia's thoroughbred breeding standards:

"It's a hard one because the breeder has spent big money on a big service fee and the horse might come out with a bent leg or windswept. In the old days, that horse would have been knocked on the head. Now they'll put them in a cast, they'll put screws in their joints, they'll do knee strips, um, all these things to get that yearling to the sales and when it brings about one thousand, they sort of have a sigh of relief, thank god I got out of that!"

11 A BRIEF DEATHWATCH 2024 SUMMARY FROM CPR NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing have a close working relationship with the Australia racing industry. There are approximately 27,000 starts in New Zealand Thoroughbred racing each year compared to 180,000 in Australia.

CPR New Zealand formed in late 2018, and have observed the same injuries and suffering by racehorses in New Zealand. During the New Zealand racing year ending 31 July 2024, **20 horses died** from either fatal incidents or euthanasia following catastrophic injuries at the race track.

Highlighter ►

On 13 July 2024 at the Wellington Racing Club in New Zealand, seven-year-old Highlighter suffered a heart attack after having literally run her heart out. Highlighter collapsed and died in front of a horrified crowd of racegoers.

[A CPR supporter was at the scene and captured the devastating sight on video.](#)



12 IN MEMORIAM

Just Too Sweet	Rothespal	Times Square	Young Liam
Angel's Fox	Seafarer Miss	Street Teen	Docconrad
Em Aye Dee	Press the Pedal	Hot or Not	Miss Stella
Big Parade	Legless Hodges	Ethelda	Monterey
Bet Red	Eastern Glow	Reliable Witness	Grand Promenade
Inti	Verona's Cleopatra	Moredream	Luv A Duck
Magpie Odyssey	Leopardi	Teemenzed	Rebel Racer
The Mediterranean	Jacinda Belle	Blood Sweat Tears	Twotoodlou
Windabull	Six Steps	Tropopause	Broken Promises
Express Cash	Ferrimo	Star Jan	Dunkel
Aisle Six	Black Shiraz	Care Too Much	Sivar
Never Stops	Otelo	Daskulya	The Rattlin Bog
Microna	Siberian Route	Canford	Big Jimma
Apple Cubed	Yamamoto	Tulsa King	Inala Michelle
Balzando	Latte Partae	Tiamat	Mont Agel
Invest and Profit	Bindango	Hell Toff	Caporiko
Iron Fist	Steinbrenner	Macs Relaxed	Fatigues
Dunoon	Future Idea	Tool Steel	Trebel Rebel
Cape Finisterre	Hellski	Think Bold	Joffrey
Manzoni	Fine Ruby	First In Line	Easy Road
Mirroring	Arnaqueur	Contradeel	Taylor Be Swift
Our Redente	Addocarr	Pontipines	Rider In The Snow
Unnamed	Ikigai Star	Teluk	Gabstar
Gulf of Guinea	Knocknee	Savvy Valentino	Solar Success
Rose to Win	Three Stripes	Yesugei	Mucho Bene
Billiondollarbaby	Tuscany Bound	el Patroness	Strobe Light
Zo Purrfect	Orbisyn	Circumpolar	Instant Impression
Stroke of Luck	Candy Raidar	Little Dougie	Far Twogood
Din	Acceptern	Rejuvenated	Spirited Bay
Tintookie	Nutso	Morning Has Broken	Bear Instinct
Irene of Athens	Prince Nicconi	Invincible Caviar	Yellow Submarine
Elemental	Make it happen	Riders Delight	Jake The Peg
Imalovaboy	Ava's Gypsy	Lauriscus	Melarab
Mayapple	Extraweird	Blesk	Captain Crocket
Paziah	Capital Meg	San Remo	Forest War
Red Niccerz	Adalissa	Three Dog Night	Nerodio
Ultragirl	Sosthenes	Captain Britain	Ekstra Phar
Serenade Belle	Beaufort Park	Nobiallo	



WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE AND PAY RESPECT TO THE MANY HORSES WHOSE DEATHS ARE NOT REPORTED, AND THE MANY THOUSANDS OF HORSES WHO SIMPLY VANISH FROM THE INDUSTRY EACH YEAR.



THANK YOU FOR READING

This report was written by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

If you have any information you would like to share, get in touch. We will never divulge sources.

horseracingkills.com