

**EQUINE WELFARE**  
**(Effective 1.10.17)**

**LR 114.**

- (1) The purpose and objective of this Local Rule 114 is to ensure the welfare of thoroughbred horses from birth, during their racing careers and on retirement.
- (2) A registered owner, trainer or any person that is in charge of or has in his or her possession, control or custody of any horses (Eligible Horses, Unnamed Horses and Named Horses) must ensure that any such horses are provided at all times with:
  - (a) proper and sufficient nutrition and water;
  - (b) proper exercise;
  - (c) stabling and paddocks of a standard approved by Racing NSW, which are adequate in size, which are adequately maintained and kept in a clean and sanitary condition;
  - (d) veterinary treatment where such treatment is necessary or directed by Racing NSW.
- (3) A registered owner, trainer or any person that is in charge of or has in his or her possession, control or custody of any horses (Eligible Horses, Unnamed Horses and Named Horses) must exercise reasonable care, control and supervision as may be necessary to prevent any such horse from being subject to cruelty or unnecessary pain or suffering.
- (4) A registered owner, trainer or any person that is in charge of or has in his or her possession, control or custody of any horses (Eligible Horses, Unnamed Horses and Named Horses) is not to euthanize or destroy a horse (or permit a horse to be euthanized or destroyed) unless a registered veterinary surgeon has certified in writing that it necessary on welfare or safety grounds or for reasons approved in writing by Racing NSW or unless under extreme circumstances where it is necessary for a horse to be euthanized immediately and the decision is subsequently confirmed by a veterinary surgeon. In the event that a registered veterinary surgeon has certified in writing that it necessary for a horse to be euthanized on welfare or safety grounds or for reasons approved in writing by Racing NSW, then the horse can only be euthanized by a registered veterinary surgeon and is not to be sent to an abattoir or knackery or similarly disposed of.  
*[sub-rule amended 1.2.21]*
- (5) Further to AR64JA(1), where a decision has been made to retire a horse, or not to commence racing an Eligible Horse, and that horse has been domiciled in New South Wales for the majority of its life:
  - (a) the Manager, in addition to any forms to be lodged with Racing Australia pursuant to AR64JA(1), is to lodge with Racing NSW the Retirement Notification form prescribed by Racing NSW, such form to includes details of the retirement option, where that horse will be located and contact details of the new owner (if that horse is being transferred to a new owner);
  - (b)

(i) that horse is not to be transferred to a location which does not meet minimum standards prescribed by Racing NSW to ensure the ongoing welfare of that horse and the owners are required to provide Racing NSW with all information and assistance (including access to the proposed location) in order to enable Racing NSW to assess that those minimum standards are met; *[sub-*

*paragraph added 1.10.17 & re-numbered 1.5.20]*

(ii) that horse is not to be transferred, sold or gifted upon retirement or thereafter, to a person who is placed on the Racing NSW Excluded List for rehoming of thoroughbreds. *[sub- paragraph added 1.5.20]*

- (c) the owners are to make all reasonable endeavours to find a home for that horse that meets Racing NSW's minimum standards in any of the following options:
- (i) breeding purposes;
  - (ii) equestrian, working, pleasure or companion horse;
  - (iii) any other option approved by Racing NSW
- (d) in the event that the owners are unable to find a home for that horse, having used all reasonable endeavours, then the remaining options for that horse are:
- (i) an official retirement or retraining program (either operated by Racing NSW or approved by Racing NSW in writing);
  - (ii) any other option that ensures the ongoing welfare of the horse approved by Racing NSW in writing;
- (e) the horse is not to be, directly or indirectly, sent to an abattoir, knackery or similarly disposed of;
- (f) the horse is not to be sold/gifted at a livestock auction not approved by Racing NSW; and
- (g) if that horse is in need of veterinary treatment (including ongoing veterinary treatment), it is not to be transferred to a new home until that veterinary treatment has been provided or Racing NSW is satisfied that it will receive that veterinary treatment.
- (6) Any person who fails to comply with LR114(1)-(5) commits a breach of these Rules and may be penalised.

*[Rule effective 1.10.17]*