

1. Background

This policy is made under s.102(1)(b) of the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld) to establish the principles and framework to be applied for the appropriate treatment of registered racing and breeding animals whilst participating in breeding, training or racing activities in Queensland, and in supporting their transition to retirement.

2. Policy Name

This policy is known as the “Animal Care Policy”.

3. Date Made and Date of Effect

This policy is made on 31 March 2021 and takes effect on the same day.

4. Purpose

The Racing Queensland Animal Care policy is prescribed to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of any animal involved in racing and to ensure that no registered thoroughbred, standardbred or greyhound is subject to actions or practices that are harmful or potentially harmful to their health and Care.

Further, the purpose of the policy is to ensure that no licensed or registered participant participates or has participated in practices that are or could be cruel or harmful to the health, safety and wellbeing of animals.

5. Who Is Affected by the Policy

This policy is a policy for all codes of racing.

This policy applies to race clubs, race venues, licensees, and other industry participants.

6. How Decisions Are to be Made

Racing Queensland is committed to the care and welfare of animals and will work with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) and racing clubs to ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of racing animals is maintained to the highest standard. This policy has been developed in conjunction with Racing Queensland’s obligations under the *Racing Act 2002* as it relates to thoroughbreds, standardbreds and greyhounds, and more broadly, the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* promotes the responsible care and use of animals and imposes a legal duty of care on people in charge of animals to ensure that the welfare of the animal is protected and maintained. It establishes the benchmark for the protection of animals against cruelty.

Racing Queensland as a Principal Racing Authority and working in conjunction with the QRIC will develop and implement the Rules of Racing, to ensure a precise legal framework for the conduct of licensed and registered participants in racing, training and breeding activities. RQ and the QRIC will achieve this through an active contribution to the formulation of national rules of racing and where required, enhance and support the conduct of racing through the advancement and implementation of local rules.

Furthermore, in conjunction and in support of the national and local rules of racing, RQ may devise and implement a series of standards, protocols and procedures to ensure that the conduct of breeding, racing and training activities in Queensland complies with the rules of racing and adheres to the highest possible standards of animal care.

The systems of governing and managing animal care in Queensland are managed by RQ through a series of industry documents which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Rules for Racing in Queensland (one for each Code)
- RQ Venue Minimum Standards (one for each Code).

7. Rules of Racing

Rules of racing are made to support this policy. Relevant documents include:

Document	Document
<i>Racing Act 2002</i>	<i>Racing Integrity Act 2016</i>
<i>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001</i>	<i>Australian Rules of Racing</i>
<i>Australian Harness Racing Rules</i>	<i>Greyhounds Australasia Rules</i>
<i>Local Rules of Racing (Greyhound Racing)</i>	<i>Local Rules (Thoroughbred Racing)</i>
<i>Local Rules of Racing (Harness Racing)</i>	<i>Venue Minimum Standards – Greyhounds</i>
<i>Venue Minimum Standards – Thoroughbred</i>	<i>Venue Minimum Standards – Harness</i>

8. Roles & Responsibilities

Racing Queensland:

- To promote animal care and prevent animal cruelty, including ensuring adequate training is provided to participants to achieve this.
- To ensure that race clubs fulfil their responsibilities, in line with Racing Queensland's Venue Minimum Standards.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission:

- To safeguard the welfare of all animals involved in racing under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* and the *Racing Act 2002*.
- To ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* and the *Racing Act 2002*.

Licensed or Registered Participants:

- To ensure that they comply with all national and local rules of racing and the requirements of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.
- To ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of animals is maintained at all times and to ensure the highest possible standards of animal care.

9. References & Related Documents

In this policy:

- (a) **Act** means the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld) and the *Racing Regulation 2013* (Qld).
- (b) **industry participants** includes anyone holding a licence, approval or authority of any kind under the Act or the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld).
- (c) **RQ** means the Racing Queensland Board.
- (d) any terms defined in the Act have the same meaning as set out in the Act, except as stated otherwise in this policy.

10. Version History

Current Version:	2	Date Made:		Effective Date:	01 / 05 / 2021
Document Owner:	EGM Operations			CEO Approved:	
Enquiries to:	EGM Operations			Due for Review:	01 / 05 / 2024

Version	Effective	Document Owner	Changes Made
1.01	May 2013	-	-
2	26 / 04 / 2017	Chief Financial Officer	Review and update to Policy
3	01 / 05 / 2021	EGM Operations	Review and update to Policy