



## **HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA**

### **HORSE ANIMAL WELFARE STATEMENT**

As a licensed person, it is your right and your responsibility to uphold the welfare of horses you own or use or have in your care, and to ensure they are not subjected to abuse, neglect or mistreatment.

Harness Racing Australia is committed to:

- Upholding the welfare of horses, as a primary consideration in all activities.
- Requiring that horses be treated with kindness, respect and the compassion they deserve, and that they never be subjected to mistreatment.
- Ensuring that owners, trainers, drivers and their agents use responsible care in the handling, treatment and transportation of their horses, as well as horses placed in their care for any purpose.
- Providing for the continuous well-being of horses by encouraging routine inspection and consultation with health care professionals and competition/industry officials to achieve the highest possible standards of nutrition, health, comfort, sanitation and safety a matter of standard operating procedure.
- Continuing to support scientific studies on equine health and welfare.
- Increasing education in training, horsemanship and breeding practices – including after racing.
- Requiring owners, trainers, drivers and stablehands to know and follow their State Controlling Body's rules and regulations in all equine activities and businesses.

- Reviewing, revising and developing rules and regulations that protect the welfare of horses.

The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine practices, would determine to be cruel, abusive or inhumane.

### **Animal Welfare & Standards**

Harness Racing Australia is dedicated to the humane treatment and welfare of horses. The cruel, abusive or inhumane treatment of a horse by any owner, trainer, driver, stablehand or other person must not be tolerated anywhere, under any circumstances.

- Cruelty can be defined as intentionally causing pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. The standard by which such conduct or treatment will be measured, is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted training and racing procedures, would determine to be cruel, excessive or inhumane.
- Cruelty to a racehorse in competition must not be tolerated. State Controlling Bodies and Clubs may consider further action and sanctions within the Rules of Racing and various *Racing Acts*.
- It is recommended every Club publish a statement regarding its position on the abuse of horses and its commitment to the humane treatment and welfare of horses.